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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

AUGUST 17, 2021

9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting-Leah McCormack
11:00 AM Update Public Works- Lisa True Omak Mt Rd-Engineer- Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Public Comment Period
2:00 PM Update Central Services-Director Karen Beatty
2:30 PM Discussion Noxious Weed Staffing Request-Larry Hudson
3:00 PM Legislative Update-Strategies-Lobbyist Zak Kennedy
3:30 PM Approve Commissioners Proceedings August 9 & August 10, 2021
4:15 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on August 17, 2021, with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

Special Board of Health Meeting

The commissioners attended the Board of Health Special meeting which was called to consider a joint letter to Governor Inslee regarding the Delta Variant urging him to implement a statewide mandate for facial coverings when physical distancing is not possible. (attached)

AV Capture provided audio and video of the meetings held today, while ZOOM provided best audio accessibility and public interaction.

Commissioners reconvened the BOCC at 9:30 a.m.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Emergency Management Maurice Goodall

Commissioner DeTro updated the other members on the Muckamuck and fires stating that the Shulz cattle were found in a green area without injury.

Commissioner Hover stated he would never vote to mandate vaccination for county employees. Commissioner DeTro stated he wouldn't either. Commissioner Branch asked why. It is a personal choice whether or not someone gets vaccinated, replied Commissioner Hover. Commissioner Branch discussed how other instances when the government addressed mandates and how some people were forced to take public health measures in order to protect others and asked how this is different. He discussed the science and what it is telling us and medical training.

Mr. Goodall provided an update on the fires and emergency management. Chickadee fire is coming down due to winds. Walker fire is moving, but not as fast as originally thought. Retardant drops along the highway are being coordinated. Reservation fire levels have dropped. Muckamuck fire is still active burning around town. FMAG was authorized for the fire. S. Pine Creek is under a level II. Communications is difficult because there is so much information out

51 there. He is trying not to repeat that information. It is all out there. The links change and break
52 even when they are verified. It is difficult.

53
54 Mr. Goodall said he cannot view his county website on their phone. He has contacted Central
55 Services to see what can be done.

56
57 Commissioner Hover explained he spoke to Okanogan Well Drilling and they actually did not put
58 a camera down the well at the fairgrounds as originally thought.

59
60 **Finance Committee Meeting-Leah McCormack**

61 Treasurer Leah McCormack, Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost

62
63 Treasurer McCormack provided the Finance Committee agenda and stated the report information
64 includes info to July 31, 2021. She thought the committee might discuss the ARPA funds plan as
65 the county received its half allocation on August 13, 2021 in the amount of \$4,102,604.

66
67 Commissioner Branch presented his ARPA power point spending strategy work sheet tool. It does
68 need additional information. He discussed the overall goals for administration of ARPA.

69
70 The group reviewed focus areas and those type of projects involve the most funds. Eligible uses
71 categories were reviewed as were the restrictions on the uses of the funds.

72
73 New financial system is needed by the county to help protect against cyberattack, said
74 Commissioner Hover. If that is a goal that should be plugged into the presentation. Cyber Attacks
75 happen when hardware is required. The Cloud version is going to be more expensive but less
76 vulnerable, stated Auditor Hall.

77
78 Looking at balances of Public Health and other funds, it appears balances are much more than
79 usual, said Treasurer McCormack. Auditor Hall said she could not think of negative economic
80 impacts due to COVID of the county.

81
82 Auditor Hall explained CARES ACT funds being audited and the potential problems with funds
83 being spent by entities provided funds by the county. Just because the county wrote the check
84 doesn't mean the funds were considered spent, the funds must be spent by the subrecipient by
85 the deadline. Don't fund new public infrastructure when there is substandard infrastructure already
86 in place. Types of Infrastructure to be funded was discussed.

87
88 Guidance showed the county must obligate the funds by December 31, 2024 and must spend
89 and projects completed by December 31, 2026.

90
91 Public Works lost a lot of gas tax but it was made up in other areas, said Josh Thomson.

92
93 Investment of the ARPA funds was discussed. Treasurer McCormack said if we leave it in cash it
94 is in overnight investment pool of residual as part of the surplus cash. The commissioners said
95 yes that is how they want it invested.

96
97 **Update Public Works- Lisa True Omak Mt Rd-Engineer- Josh Thomson**

98 Solid Waste Manager Kent Kovalenko, TV District #1 Board Member, Veletegui

99 Lisa True previously requested time with the commissioners to discuss Omak Mt. Road concerns,
100 but was unable to attend at the scheduled time. TV District #1 board member Victoria Veletegui
101 stated she joined the meeting because the TV District uses the road to get to the mountain top

102 where the TV tower is and there appears to be a project happening on the road right now.
103 Engineer Thomson said the county does not have a road project on the road right now, but he
104 thought the tribes might. He confirmed that complaints have been received many times over the
105 years about the primitive road regarding dust, wash boarding, and lack of maintenance.

106
107 *Solid Waste*

108 Pond 2 Liner had no holes other than the one on the liner floor. It was drained and no moisture
109 was present. All the tests were run. We do not need to replace the liner.

110
111 *Landfill Water Well*

112 The well that is off of Spring Coulee has intermittent issues supplying water to the trees. The well
113 will need to have the sand blown out. The tank was pulled and we have water at around 147 feet
114 and pump is at 163. He noticed it was 183 in previous years and now it is at 163 and pumping
115 sand. He believes the sand needs to be blown out and pump replaced. The water level appears
116 to be down about 20 feet. Over time it fills with sand. There are funds available due to efficiencies
117 elsewhere.

118
119 Engineer Thomson provided his update.

120
121 *Maintenance*

122 Engineer Thomson explained the teams addressing the four fires in the county. They've broken
123 up into two groups. They haven't asked for much assistance.

124
125 Moving chip seal to Brewster area tomorrow. Also working on the Ross Canyon road due to roots
126 and water issues. Work for Twisp in the next two weeks.

127
128 The Miller Pit area property acquisition by WDFW Hunter Mtn was approved. The commissioners
129 were happy. It will move forward. Public Works has a 3.4-acre parcel by the river in 1978 with an
130 easement through the hay field and they would like to wrap that parcel into the same process for
131 the Hunter Mtn part. Commissioner Hover stated it will need to be appraised. The purchaser will
132 provide. WDFW already owns all the land around this parcel.

133
134 Is the county putting in the parking lot? Details need to be ironed out for the trailhead and uses.
135 Commissioner Hover would like to have a thought process on maintenance, easement access,
136 etc.... details.

137
138 Commissioner Hover asked if the board would like to review the Request for Services notification
139 draft for the Methow Watershed Council administration position. Yes, the board would like to go
140 over it.

141
142 The board reconvened after lunch at 1:30 p.m.

143
144 **Public Comment Period**

145 Commissioner Branch asked if anyone wished to provide public comment and no one attending
146 zoom wished to speak.

147
148 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

149 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
150 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
151 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
152 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$973,144.51 and Payroll vouchers in the amount

153 of \$1,042,080. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded
154 and carried.

155

156 **Motion Public Health Voucher**

157 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in
158 the amount of \$74,466.42 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$42,002.03. Warrant numbers as
159 cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

160

161 **Motion Resolution 104-2021 Infrastructure 2022 Prioritization List**

162 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 104-2021 approving the Infrastructure
163 Committee prioritized list of infrastructure projects for 2022. Motion was seconded, all were in
164 favor, motion carried.

165

166 Commissioner Branch left at 2:05 p.m. to attend the election certification.

167

168 **Update Central Services-Director Karen Beatty**

169 Director Beatty provided her departmental update. She explained a staff member is retiring soon
170 and explained her thoughts and plans for hiring.

171

172 Commissioner Hover said the website doesn't work well on phones. If the power goes down all
173 together, the phones (EM Phones) get goofy. The system is computer driven. The UPS units
174 provide back up power. Commissioner Hover would like to discuss a generator for the VG building
175 with Mike Worden.

176

177 The Central Services old cooling units are going to be replaced. The project was approved at
178 about \$26,000 a couple weeks ago.

179

180 Commissioner Hover asked who gets billed for Central Services services. Director Beatty listed
181 who gets billed. Commissioners thanked Director Beatty for her update.

182

183 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings August 9 & August 10, 2021**

184 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 9 and August 10, 2021.
185 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

186

187 **Discussion Omak Mt. Road-Lisa True**

188 Lisa True was not able to attend her scheduled time with Public Works today at 11:00 a.m. so she
189 came in this afternoon to explain concerns about lack of road maintenance on Omak Mountain
190 Road. Ms. True lives at 122 Omak Mountain Rd. She explained her family's long history on the
191 property and long history of the road's lack of maintenance. She believes travelers go too fast on
192 the road and with Cates and Erb pit located off the road there is plenty of traffic.

193

194 Ms. True said she feels discriminated against because she is native and that is the reason nothing
195 is being done to address the condition of the road. Commissioner Hover said that is not the case
196 there are many primitive roads all over the county that do not get regular maintenance.
197 Commissioners said many of the primitive county roads only get graded once annually, if at all.
198 There are no speed limit signs on primitive roads. All county roads not posted are 35 mph.

199

200 Ms. True asked when will the road be taken care of better? Can it be oiled or watered to pack
201 down the dirt? The road is the worst it has ever been. She asked what the schedule was for
202 grading the road and putting water or oil on it.

203

204 Ms. True said there are 8-10 families who live up there right now. Commissioner Hover said now
205 that the board is aware of the issues and they can address the issue with the county engineer.
206 The other thing is the tribe cannot take over anymore roads. Her concern is the lack of response
207 by the county. She said the cheapest materials are being used, sick of being the last one, sick of
208 the white side being paved and the tribal side unpaved. She said it is clear where the county's
209 priorities are. It has never been fair, equitable, or unbiased. Commissioner Hover said the county's
210 budget is not huge for road maintenance and with about half the roads being dirt, it is hard to get
211 to all of them. Commissioner Hover said the board will discuss these concerns with Engineer
212 Thomson next Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. The board doesn't know how to address the situation until
213 they speak to the engineer who will give them options. Commissioners suggested a call to the
214 Sheriff to address those who speed. It doesn't happen instantaneously said Commissioner Hover.
215 Ms. True felt she should not have to be here to complain about getting equal fair service, instead
216 she is just an Indian. Commissioner Hover is sorry she feels that way. Ms. True wants the county
217 to take responsibility right now. Ms. True left the meeting stating nothing will be done.

218

219 **Approve Consent Agenda**

220 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-4. Motion was seconded, all
221 were in favor, motion carried.

- 222 1. Supplemental Agreement #1 N. Star Park City Bridge B-4 Engineering-DOT
- 223 2. Contract N. Star Park City Bridge B-4 Project-Degerstrom, Inc
- 224 3. Agreement & Certifications N. Star Park City Bridge B-4 Materials Testing-NC Testing & Inspection
- 225 4. Letter Appointment Water Conservancy Board-Brad Armstrong

226

227 **Motion**

228 Commissioner Hover moved to approve a letter of support to transfer a portion of the Similkameen
229 trail that is within the city limits to the City of Oroville. The Oroville Initiative (TOI). Motion was
230 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

231

232 The RV park is now closed. The camp hosts will be staying as they have been cleaning bathrooms
233 and fire camp people and the only two campers.

234

235 **Legislative Update-Strategies-Lobbyist Zak Kennedy**

236 Mr. Kennedy stated this meeting was to hear what main issues of the board to be addressed this
237 upcoming legislative session. He asked the board to pick one thing to educate the legislator on.
238 He suggested not throwing a dog in the fight regarding Sheriff issues or funding matters.

239

240 Commissioner Hover thought education of the water issues the water banking bill might be one
241 topic. He isn't sure if out of basin transfers will be done this year. Mr. Kennedy said the board
242 should shoot for small wins, but he liked the water issue topic. He said pick one issue, because
243 we should expect another online session this year and we should plan for that. He recommended
244 the board submit a list of two or three and prioritize those in a meeting with the legislator. He will
245 try and set up meetings with the legislators once he has the feedback from all the county's Potts
246 represent. Conversations about fires have been about response times and the good job they are
247 doing responding to the fire.

248

249 **Update Superior Court Fairgrounds Use-Dennis Rabidou, Naomie Peasley**

250 Mary Horner

251

252 Commissioner Hover thought Mr. Rabidou could tell the board what is going on with the Agriplex.
253 The contract with SC runs to the end of September, but the space is needed for jury selection at
254 the end of August. It will be a long trial since it is a murder trial. He isn't sure if this will turn into a

255 two-day jury selection. He believes they will lose a bunch due to hardships. August 30 and August
256 31 and September 1 and the trial will happen in the courtroom. It is unknown when the trial will
257 happen. Mr. Rabidou said the fair will not be disrupted by Superior Court's need to use the
258 Agriplex. He conveyed to the Judges that they want this done with one pool, so the plan is to try
259 and get many jurors in that Tuesday. Commissioner Hover and Commissioner Branch mentioned
260 the request from the schools to be able to use the Agriplex for sports practices due to the smoke.
261

262 Ms. Naomie said the fire camps Type II crew reserved the Agriplex through Sept. 4. What should
263 she do? She doesn't know if they will need the Agriplex that day. The board was in favor of
264 Commissioner Branch coordinating efforts to resolve the issues and if he is not successful the
265 board will address. There are competing interests to use the grounds.
266

267 Commissioner Hover asked about the RFP for Methow Watershed Council and he would like to
268 get it prepared and authorized Monday.
269

270 Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall explained the Mayor of Conconully would like all
271 evacuations lifted for the town of Conconully. Commissioner Hover asked if the Mayor would be
272 responsible for this decision. There is no way someone should be able to direct a change and
273 then not have liability of their decision. Commissioners discussed the emergency situation and
274 direction that is given to the Emergency Manager. Commissioner Branch said these things need
275 to be worked out. Evacuation levels were discussed and when the roads are shut down by the
276 county. The issue is that businesses want to rent to tourists. Commissioner Hover stated he is
277 not in favor of allowing non-residents through, only allow residents through. The State Park is
278 closed right now, and 200 people from the camp grounds were displaced.
279

280 The board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.
281
282