

1 **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

2 **OKANOGAN COUNTY**

3 **AUGUST 30, 2022**

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- 8 **9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes August 22 & 23, 2022**
- 9 **9:15 AM Public Comment Period**
- 10 **9:30 AM Discussion- Undersheriff Aaron Culp**
- 11 **10:00 AM Update - Assessor - Larry Gilman**
- 12 **10:30 AM Discussion Infrastructure Fund - Economic Alliance Roni Holder-Diefenbach**
- 13 **11:00 AM Public Hearing - 6-year Transportation Plan-Jo Ann Stansbury**
- 14 **To Follow Update- Public Works- Josh Thomson**
- 15 **11:50 AM Commissioners to set Wednesday's Agenda**
- 16 **11:55 AM Approve Commissioners Proceedings- August 22 & 23, 2022**
- 17 **11:55 AM Approve Consent Agenda**
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19 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Public Hearing at 123 5th Avenue

20 North, Okanogan, Washington on August 30, 2022 with Chairman, Commissioner Andy

21 Hover; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro; and

22 the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

23

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

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26 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings- August 22 & 23, 2022**

27 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 22 and August 23,

28 2022. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

29

30 **Approve Consent Agenda**

31 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-5. Commissioner

32 Branch reviewed the Fair Contracts listed as #5 and discussed a donation from Reman

33 Reload to pay for something. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 34
- 35 1. CRAB RAP Final Prospectuses
 - 36 2. Award Recommendation for the Bridgeport Transfer Station Valley Gutter
 - 37 3. Code Publishing Authorization Agreement
 - 38 4. Amendment to Similkameen Connector Trail Phase 1 Grant Agreement
 - 39 5. Fairgrounds Fair Night Riders, Elaine Cardenas, Company Band, Nashville Stars, Swine
 - 40 Barn, Horse Barn, Amanda Yaksic, SmallTown Strings LLC, Liberty Linklater, Karen &
 - 41 Gil, What4 Band, Rabbits w/ Machine Guns, Beef Barn, American Honey Band, Gavin
 - 42 Hooper Hypnotist, Sheep Barn, Raveling Toad show and Road Dawgs, The Rising
 - 43 Band, Derek Howell, Faith Baptist, Morgan and Sons, Mrs. Pumpco, Goat Barn, Horse
 - 44 Races, Eric Frits-ShoWorks, Stock Contractor, Al Parsons, ProWest, Rabbit Judge,
 - 45 Magician- Evans, Horse Game Judge, VIP Production Northwest, Eddie Montgomery,
 - 46 Romeo Entertainment, Kieann Wilson, The Leslie's Contracts.

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48 **Public Comment Period**

49 No public wished to provide public comment. Karren Harris, Ms. Jackson

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Discussion- Undersheriff Aaron Culp

Undersheriff Culp stated a correction needed to the previously approved hiring bonus resolution. He explained why the effort was put on hold. The correction positions have not been filled we are down 6 and so slowly going downhill rather than climbing out of the hole. He suggested advertising the positions on a nationwide recruitment platform. Hiring bonuses are an option being employed around the state. He proposed a hiring bonus that uses unspent wages obligated to those wage lines rather than using ARPA. He explained stipulation changes for payment of the bonus after hire date. A payment upon hiring with no strings attached is acceptable. The association would like to reengage without contract negotiations upon a proposal outside their session to consider.

He would like to reintroduce a modified resolution to allow no strings attached for patrol and various other positions. He explained \$7,500, \$10,000 for corrections and patrol positions and \$3,500 for other positions was reasonable.

Motion Hiring Bonus Pilot Program

Commissioner Branch moved that the Undersheriff work towards a resolution outlining the changes for the Sheriff's Office hiring bonus pilot program resolution. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Undersheriff thanked the board and said he will draft the resolution and continue his discussion with the association on the MOU regarding the bonus.

The Clerk of the Board explained an Interagency Agreement Amendment with AOC regarding the Blake decision reimbursables.

Interagency Agreement Amendment #1 BLAKE

Commissioner DeTro moved to approve and authorize the Vice Chairman to sign the Interagency Agreement Amendment #1 between Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts and Okanogan County regarding the Blake decision reimbursables up to \$454,200. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Update - Assessor - Larry Gilman

Jan Million

Assessor Gilman provided his quarterly update. The market is slowing but prices are still high. We are seeing historical excise tax payments that are based on prices. People are selling property extremely high. He explained asking prices are high and to make up for interest rates. The market is moving faster than his office can keep up, not selling within 24 hours now more like 2-3 months.

Assessor Gilman said field devise upgrade failures have contributed to his office being so behind. The failure affected 13 counties. It is encouraging to have electronic files in the field.

Assessor said staffing is still an issue. Annual work was completed in July but mailing won't go out until September 30. He might have all appraisals completed by that date. He explained new construction appraisals that take longer. He and Steve are in the field to get the work finished.

99 Assessor Gilman explained he needs a previously eliminated appraiser position that he would
100 like to have reinstated due to growth of Okanogan County. In early 2000's we had 45,000
101 parcels and now we have 53,000. Growth and new construction contributed to how behind
102 the office has become.

103
104 Assessor Gilman explained efficiencies created in drafting which allowed the department to
105 reduce staffing, but he really needs help on the appraisal side. Authorizing a new position
106 would need to be budgeted. He has three positions at retirement age, so he asked if the new
107 appraiser position be able to be trained before that happens. He is looking to fill several
108 positions in the office.

109
110 The assessor's vehicle order was not included in the 2022 production. So, to purchase a 2023
111 vehicle there would be a price increase due to company discontinuing the production of the
112 2022 ford vehicles. He asked if he should go to state bid for 2023 proposals but he wanted
113 to keep local. Commissioner Branch asked him to look for a price and delivery date that works
114 for him. Can he accept a new proposal for the 2023 or should he go down the line with the
115 2022 proposals previously received? He is alright if he moves forward with the current vendor
116 with a 2023 order.

117
118 Open Space Open Space scoring systems was discussed. An audit recommended
119 adjustments to the scoring system used. He found a WAC 458-30-330 that addresses the
120 audit to reclassify property to make it correct. He provided a sheet showing previous scores
121 and updated scores after applying the new scoring chart. No parcel will get more than a 50%
122 reduction. Some went from 90% reduction to 35% reduction using the new rating system.
123 Some were so old they did not have a score on file, those were set at 35%. The score criteria
124 is set by ordinance and based on how many criteria on the property, point system. Letters will
125 go to property owners explaining the situation and the assessor's decisions are appealable
126 to the Board of Equalization.

127
128 Commissioner Hover rejoined the meeting at 10:45 a.m. after participating in Auditor's office
129 interviews for 45 minutes.

130
131 **Discussion Infrastructure Fund - Economic Alliance Roni Holder-Diefenbach**
132 Ms. Holder-Diefenbach discussed the .09 fund (Infrastructure fund 117)

133
134 The original .09 fund bond for rural counties is paid off in 2023. The PWTFL is scheduled in
135 2027.

136
137 Historically a process was in place where funds were split between county and city projects.
138 Does this still work? How much will be able to be allocated on annual basis, etc... she would
139 like to plan for this discussion with the community about going through the process and when
140 funds will be opened up so they know what that will look like. This 40/40/20 split still works
141 well. The portion paid to city of Omak (\$20,000 & \$20,000) for the stampede area should be
142 coming to an end soon. Commissioner Branch commented that the county was still paying
143 for the Eastlake Sewer with the funds. The cities could have protested the funds not being
144 available after that, but didn't.

145

146 Ms. Holder-Diefenbach explained how the 40/40/20 split worked in the past. The cities are
147 happy to go back to this split. She explained in 2007 she and the county reconciled the fund
148 to make sure the fund could be tracked well afterward.

149
150 **Public Hearing - 6-year Transportation Plan-Jo Ann Stansbury**

151 Commissioner Hover opened up the hearing to staff. Ms. Stansbury provided her staff report.
152 (attached)

153
154 The engineer did not have additional comment.

155
156 Member of the public, Karen Harris asked what the projects were for. Engineer Thomson
157 replied the projects have to do with roads and funding.

158
159 Commissioner Hover closed public comment and opened the hearing up to the board.
160 Commissioner Branch discussed what projects these could include.

161
162 **Motion Resolution 119-2022 6-Year Transportation Program/Plan**

163 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve Resolution 119-2022 the county's 6-Year
164 Transportation Program/Plan. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

165
166 **Update- Public Works- Josh Thomson**

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

168
169 *Maintenance and Road conditions*

170 Grading roads, but progress slow, hauling water.

171
172 *Fish passage on Moses Meadows road proposed Lost Creek Fish passage project*
173 Engineer Thomson discussed moving forward with that and whether the commissioners have
174 any issues. He thinks it is a good project. Commissioners felt it was a reasonable project.

175
176 *Carlson Request to Purchase Road ROW*

177 An email requested purchase of county road right of way. Engineer Thomson explained the
178 request and history of the access involving the requestors. The current request is to purchase
179 the right of way in order to access their property, but we cannot do that. Due to the previous
180 lawsuit the land owners have to go back to court every 5-years for continued access to their
181 property. Engineer Thomson said WDFW should not have the rights to condition their access
182 like this.

183
184 *Cordell Road Fence Letter*

185 Engineer Thomson reported that Cordell Road is not a county road and the issue described
186 in the letter would be a civil matter. It is a Cordell plat. It is not in the county's jurisdiction to
187 deal with the matter.

188
189 *Planning, Rec Trails, OCOG Support Position*

190 Engineer Thomson discussed his findings around this position and the difficulties establishing
191 a position like this. The county would likely assume the responsibilities.

192
193 *Salmon Creek Drainage Project*

194 Should be on site September 19. A public Service announcement will be issued.

195
196 *Cameron Lake Road project* is not moving forward due to non-cooperation with the tribe.
197 Engineer Thomson explained the difficulties being created and what the tribe is telling him.
198 He did send a letter to BIA describing the issue and providing solutions with no response.
199 Commissioner Branch thought this situation could affect land owners down the road and
200 would have an interest in knowing what the right of way is in the future. We may need to
201 refund \$75,000.

202
203 Consent agenda items were discussed. The board previously approved the consent agenda
204 items.

205
206 Commissioner DeTro discussed Oberg Road as he was informed that the road may lose two
207 culverts in the next thunderstorm. Commissioners thanked Engineer Thomson.

208
209 Commissioner Hover discussed his thoughts about the Fair Contracts and wanting a more
210 defined process for BOCC review and understanding of the services/products provided.
211 Commissioner Branch said he too has thoughts about the situation. Commissioner Hover isn't
212 sure about putting restrictions on the fair vendors and what they get to sell. He asked if it was
213 actually necessary since it is the 75th anniversary. Commissioner Branch explained there was
214 a lot more to the situation that contributed to recent discussions among the fair advisory
215 committee members and others. Commissioner Hover discussed moving the fair fund into
216 current expense rather than having it separate and charging rent.

217
218 Commissioner Hover explained there are contracts with vendors that do not entirely spell out
219 the conditions the county applies. He is concerned about putting his name on the contracts
220 without the stipulations being outlined there. Commissioners will not limit any vendor or their
221 menus at this year's fair.

222
223 **Letter Support Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation**

224 Commissioner Branch moved to sign a support letter regarding Methow Salmon Recovery
225 Foundation Salmon State Supplemental Large Cap Grant regarding Sugar Reach Channel
226 Reconnections Implementation Proposal. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
227 carried. Emailed to Chris Johnson.

228
229 **Motion Special Occasion Liquor License Omak Elks Lodge - #353666 10/20/2022**

230 Commissioner moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the Omak Elks Lodge
231 special occasions liquor license for Rotary Steak Night at the fairgrounds on October 20,
232 2022. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

233
234 **Motion Resolution 122-2022 Creating fund 171 Capital Expense Bond**

235 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 122-2022 a resolution creating Fund 171
236 Capital Expense Bond. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

237
238 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**

239 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Tonasket EMS
240 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

241

242 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket
243 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$1,833.60 to the State Auditor. Motion was
244 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

245
246 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the
247 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

248
249 Commissioner Branch stated the FAC bylaws were not yet changed to include a commissioner
250 role. He believes it more an oversight role and he is no longer comfortable being in that role.
251 Commissioner Hover will take on the role. Commissioner Branch would like to continue the
252 Infrastructure Fund discussion.

253
254 **Commissioners to set Wednesday's Agenda**

255 No meeting is necessary Wednesday.

256
257 The board adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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