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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

DECEMBER 18, 2023

8	9:00 AM	Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda
9	9:10 AM	Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings &
10		Schedule
11	9:15 AM	Public Comment Period
12	9:30 AM	Executive Session RCW 42.30.110. (1)(i)(iii)
13	9:45 AM	Commissioners Staff Meeting
14	10:00 AM	Discussion-Conservation District Water Banking Agreement-Commissioners
15	10:30 AM	Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Auditor Elections
16	10:35 AM	Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Solid Waste Fund 405
17	10:40 AM	Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Sheriff Vehicles
18	10:45 AM	Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental-Law Library
19	11:00 AM	Discussion-Food System Delivery Support Request-Maria Hines
20	12:00 PM	Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Meetings & Schedule
21	1:30 PM	Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

23 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue
24 North, Okanogan, Washington on December 18, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris
25 Branch; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

26
27 AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

28
29 Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover attended via zoom today.

30
31 **Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda**

32 Commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

33
34 **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule**

35 Commissioners discussed Fish and Wildlife topics including spotted owl, bear population and
36 incidences, and cougars. Commissioners discussed rules are changing that may impact
37 Okanogan County and the management of the wildlife.

38
39 Commissioners discussed what it would look like if the county provided inhouse public
40 defense services. Commissioners discussed further information that the attorney's Bar
41 association and county's Risk Pool could provide. Commissioner Branch asked if the county
42 would be burdened by additional liability if the service was brought inhouse. Commissioner
43 Hover isn't sure if the amount of liability would be different compared to current contracted
44 services.

45
46 Commissioner Branch stated an email was sent from Ted Reinbold about the emerging lack
47 of Public Defense. Esther Milner stated due to body cam footage it takes longer to process
48 the technology. Looking at legislature and what they will require, and county expense of
49 providing more attorneys. It is a pretty big problem and there have been some headlines on
50 it.

51 **Public Comment Period**

52 Member of the public, Emily Sisson, via zoom had no comment.

53

54 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110. (1)(i)(iii)**

55 Commissioner Neal moved to go into executive session at 9:30 a.m. to discuss RCW
56 42.30.110 (1)(iii) inviting Chief Civil Attorney Esther Milner, Risk Manager Shelley Keitzman,
57 and Sheriff Paul Budrow until 10:00 a.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
58 carried.

59

60 Executive session ended at 10:00 a.m.

61

62 **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

63 Commissioners did not have a staff meeting today.

64

65 **Discussion-Conservation District Water Banking Agreement-Commissioners**

66 Esther Milner

67

68 Commissioners discussed the drafted ILA between Okanogan Conservation District and
69 Okanogan County. Commissioner Hover wanted to ensure everything was covered and
70 asked to change the word managed to defined in the second whereas. He said we may want
71 to include references to the three WRIAs 48, 49 and 47.

72

73 Commissioner Branch discussed the property the county shop is located as a potential animal
74 shelter. There were conditions the city required that would still need to be developed such as
75 paving the entry portion which we have done but sidewalk would need to be put in. There
76 could be a shared approach using the driveway already established at one end.

77

78 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Solid Waste Fund 405**

79 Engineer Josh Thomson, Solid Waste Manager Kent Kovalenko

80

81 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing asking for staff report. Engineer Josh Thomson
82 explained the budget supplemental was originally for but asked to change the as the chipper
83 won't be paid for until 2024 but still need budget to cover expenses until the end of the year.
84 Central Landfill. No public comment was given.

85

86 **Motion Resolution 203-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Solid Waste Fund 405**

87 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 203-2023 a budget supplemental
88 appropriation within the Solid Waste fund 405 in the amount of \$500,000. Motion was
89 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

90

91 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Sheriff Vehicles**

92 Undersheriff Dave Yarnell

93

94 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to staff. Undersheriff Yarnell stated the first
95 vehicle purchase order was through the state bid but due to the provider overestimating the
96 number of vehicles they could deliver; the purchase order was cancelled. He stated three
97 bids were received through the county bid process which turned up three bids one for
98 \$63,000, one for \$55,000 and \$52,000 which is a 2022 Ford Explorer in Seattle with 1600

99 miles that meets the Sheriff's needs and the original equipment purchased for the patrol
100 vehicle will fit vehicle.

101
102 Commissioner Branch asked for public comment, none was given.

103
104 **Motion Resolution 204-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Sheriff Vehicles**

105 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 204-2023 Budget Supplemental
106 Appropriation for purchase of a Sheriff Vehicle in the amount of \$55,000. Motion was
107 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

108
109 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental-Law Library**

110 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to public testimony, seeing no one wished to
111 comment he closed public testimony and opened up to commissioners' discussion.

112
113 **Motion Resolution 205-2023 Budget Supplemental-Law Library**

114 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 205-2023 a budget supplemental for the
115 law library in the amount of \$671. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

116
117 **Discussion-Food System Delivery Support Request-Maria Hines**

118 Ms. Hines provided Blue Sky Minds information about the First Ever Okanogan Region Food
119 System Assessment and Okanogan Region 10-year Food Action Plan Project Proposal.
120 (attached) Ms. Hines discussed the work Blue Sky Minds is doing. Located in Mazama and
121 hopes to be in service and increase economic viability and sustainability and access to local
122 food. She said the purpose is to provide the very first food assessment accomplished for
123 Okanogan County and Colville Reservation. In her research she found bits and pieces of
124 assessment but not a cohesive document. She is working with WSU students who are
125 gathering information for the assessment.

126
127 With a completed assessment, she hopes to go after federal dollars to help put together a
128 10-year food action plan for Okanogan County. In the effort she has been working with WSU
129 and stake holders who have been attending the round table to gather what would be beneficial
130 for the system. A scope of work was put together of the info gathered. A technical writing
131 course in Vancouver, WA helped teach how to put the proper language together for the
132 assessment. The plan will include participation of members of the community.

133
134 Ms. Hines stated she is requesting sponsorship of the completion of the food assessment as
135 well as the action plan to be completed in 2025. She asked for a \$9,500 match of the same
136 amount Public Health is sponsoring to get the work completed on behalf of the county and
137 Colville reservation.

138
139 Commissioners reviewed the proposal documents and discussed the potential county support
140 and reasons for contributing or not. 90% of our food in Okanogan County is imported. We
141 grow it ship it out and it comes back to us at a higher cost.

142
143 Blue Sky Minds is a team of one, she does have a board president, secretary, and treasurer.
144 Much of her time has been volunteered and now with a proof of concept with Blue Sky Minds
145 doing the work. She is confident that the work will be accomplished. There is 100
146 stakeholders' part of this. It is basically a food council for our county. All the meetings are
147 hybrid in order to provide a low barrier for people to attend and engage. Blue Sky Minds is

148 not calling the shots, they are putting together the group's input and then it is ratified by the
149 group to ensure it captures what the group intended. The document is to be realistic and work
150 able to be done collaboratively.

151
152 Commissioner Hover stated the ask is \$9500 and the same amount asked for by Public
153 Health.

154
155 Commissioner Branch stated the County Commissioners are on the Board Health, and
156 Commissioner Branch sits on the Board of Directors Community Action Council.
157 Commissioner Hover stated the county put in \$1,000,000 to public health and wondered if
158 funding the full amount using ARPA money would be best. Commissioners Neal and Branch
159 thought that would be appropriate and Commissioner Hover will discuss with Laurie Jones.
160 He wants to ensure the county uses up/obligates all its ARPA money before the cutoff date.

161
162 Commissioner Branch explained Blue Sky Minds would be a sub recipient of money allocated
163 to Public Health. Commissioners feel the development of the assessment and action plan a
164 very good idea. Commissioner Hover stated the county's food banks are run by Community
165 Action Council and they would know what kinds of foods are given out. Ms. Hines did reach
166 out to food banks for the last round table. The round table meetings happen in all the town
167 areas to ensure every major town is involved including towns on the Colville Reservation. She
168 has not contacted the schools yet; Commissioner Neal will provide that information.

169
170 She is confident \$100,000 will get it all done. She would like the County's Logo on the
171 assessment front. There are other counties who have done assessments, but they just rolled
172 their plan out a couple years ago. Mel Johnson Rural Resource Community Action Council in
173 Colville. He attended Okanogan County's last round table meeting and he was so resourceful
174 and knowledgeable and is championing this work. Mr. Johnson was involved with developing
175 Spokane County's plan. Ms. Hines is tracking down the experts who have done this before
176 since she hasn't done this before. Commissioner Neal suggested a presentation with all the
177 cities on the Council of Governments. He can put her on the agenda.

178
179 Commissioners discussed the benefits of the assessment and what could be done with the
180 plan and who might be interested in participating. Commissioner Branch discussed Second
181 Harvest and the struggles involved in distributing the foods. Aging and Adult Care ran into
182 lack of available food when they needed it during the fires. He is very interested in
183 understanding what is going on. A map showing how the system works and looking at all the
184 policies that create barriers, barriers in our school systems, and ranchers, so she is looking
185 at it collaboratively for solutions. Commissioner Branch stated food waste is creating gases
186 in our land fill, so other ways to dispose or use it is part of the overall solution.

187
188 **Motion – SPECIAL Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
189 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and
190 those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been
191 recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by
192 unanimous vote, to approve the Special voucher in the amount of \$3,000. Warrant number as
193 cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

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197 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
198 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and
199 those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been
200 recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by
201 unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$506,596.92 and Payroll
202 vouchers in the amount of \$1,114,721.80. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket
203 voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

204
205 Commissioners recessed for lunch until 1:30 p.m.

206
207 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)**

208 Commissioner Neal moved to go into executive session at 1:33 p.m. under RCW 42.30.110
209 (1)(i) inviting attorneys Esther Milner, Charlene Koski, and Jenna R. Mandell-Rice to discuss
210 RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) legal risk until 2:00 p.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
211 carried.

212
213 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)**

214 Commissioner Neal moved to go into executive session at 2:02 p.m. under RCW 42.30.110
215 (1)(i) inviting Prosecutor Albert Lin, Esther Milner, Teddy Chow and Risk Manager Shelley
216 Keitzman, and to discuss RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) legal risk until 2:30 p.m. Motion was
217 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

218
219 At 2:30 p.m. commissioners extended executive session until 3:00 p.m.

220
221 At 3:00 p.m. commissioners extended until 3:11 p.m.

222
223 The board adjourned at 3:13 p.m.