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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

DECEMBER 4, 2023

9:00 AM Public Hearing-Tonasket, Oroville & Methow EMS Districts-Budget Adoption
9:10 AM Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Executive Session-RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)(i)(iii)
To Follow Commissioners Staff Meeting
10:30 AM Public Hearing-2024 Budget-Commissioners
10:45 AM Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule
11:00 AM Discussion-Market Stock Fund-Brent Timm
11:30 AM Public Hearing-Lake Management District Roles-Pete Palmer
5:30 PM Public Hearing-Lake Management District-
OROVILLE CHAMBERS-1210 Ironwood St, Oroville, 98844

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on December 4, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

Public Hearing-Tonasket, Oroville & Methow EMS Districts-Budget Adoption
Assessor Larry Gilman

Motion Oroville Rural EMS District

Commissioner Neal moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to the public. Emily Sisson via zoom had no comment. Commissioner Branch opened up to commissioner discussion. Commissioners discussed the budget amounts for 2024 and commissioners adjusted the numbers accordingly.

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 4-2023 adopting the Oroville Rural EMS 2024 Budget. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Tonasket EMS District

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and reconvene as the Tonasket EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing. He asked if there were public comments, none were given. Commissioner Branch opened up to commissioner discussion.

Commissioners discussed the budget amounts for 2024 and commissioners adjusted the numbers accordingly.

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 3-2023 the Tonasket EMS District 2024 Budget. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

53
54 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**
55 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and reconvene as the
56 Methow Valley EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

57
58 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing.

59
60 Assessor Gilman testified for the assessor's office noting the new levy and what the district could
61 expect for revenue. Commissioner Hover stated the district is paying Aero Methow 1/12 of the levy
62 amount received on a monthly basis. He discussed the Twisp and Methow arrangement and the
63 agreement they have with the county for use their levy funds.

64
65 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing for public testimony. None were given.

66
67 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 3-2023 a resolution adopting the Methow EMS
68 District 2024 Budget. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

69
70 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the
71 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

72
73 **Motion Resolution 183-2023 2024 Taxing District Levy Certification**

74 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 183-2023 the 2024 Jr. Taxing District Levy
75 Certification. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

76
77 **Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda**
78 Commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

79
80 **Public Comment Period**
81 No public wished to comment.

82
83 **Executive Session-RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)(i)(iii)**
84 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:03 a.m. until 10:23 a.m. inviting
85 Prosecutor Albert Lin, Chief Civil Deputy Esther Milner, and Risk Manager Shelley Keitzman to
86 discuss RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)(i)(iii). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

87
88 Executive Session was extended for 5-minutes at 10:23 until 10:28 a.m.

89
90 **Public Hearing-2024 Budget-Commissioners**
91 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to discussion. Commissioners discussed the
92 wording of RCW 36.40.071 to understand that the hearing could be continued from day to day
93 not to exceed 5-days. The board recessed the hearing until 1:30 p.m. today.

94
95 **Commissioners Staff Meeting moved to 10:39 a.m.**
96 Planning Director Pete Palmer provided her planning department update.

97
98 Director Palmer provided a new revised schedule for the zone code update. There is scheduled
99 a work session on December 7th and then December 8th is set to make the corrections, December
100 11th is the planning commission meeting, December 14th is the kick off for public comment period
101 on the revisions.

102

103 Director Palmer discussed how issues arise when the Assessor is splitting property for senior
104 exemption purposes such as the one done for Sheryl Curtis on Burton Avenue in Okanogan. The
105 property division was not a legal division, it created preexisting non-conforming lots, she
106 suggested whenever the assessor is dividing land that it be done per county code. Also, when
107 the Assessor assigns address markers outside of the official addressing department, people are
108 adopting those as physical addresses and not working through the addressing department for an
109 official address. She would like the assessor to follow the county regulations with regard to senior
110 exemptions and address assignments. Commissioner Branch discussed how these issues are to
111 be figured out and asked what other counties are doing. Director Palmer will speak to the assessor
112 again about these issues and how it creates hardships.

113
114 Director Palmer read a request from Methow Watershed Foundation to change the use of funds
115 under the scope of work because they wanted to move ahead with one of their tasks involving an
116 ASR in order to subcontract with another. Commissioner Hover stated Twisp is not getting a credit
117 for their discharge water and water that is turned back to the river and not being counted as water
118 being turned back for recharge value. He isn't sure if it has to go back into the ground or into the
119 river. Is this included in the current contract scope of work? Commissioners discussed the
120 consideration.

121
122 Commissioners asked about the Foundation board wanting to spend funds to send their members
123 to a board retreat. They agreed it was not in the scope of work and costs should not be charged
124 to the contract. Commissioner Hover suggested the proposal be provided to the county that states
125 their position.

126
127 Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall provided a draft resolution for the restructure of the EM
128 department that would authorize Emergency Management Specialist Positions I and II.
129 Commissioners discussed how "only one position is to be funded per year and how that position
130 will be funded based on the qualifications and experience of the employee occupying the
131 position". Mr. Goodall will ensure the draft states what the council needs.

132
133 **Motion Resolution 186-2023 Emergency Management**
134 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 186-2023 authorizing a restructure of the EM
135 Specialist position II and promoting Lori Caswell to the position effective January 1, 2024. Motion
136 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

137
138 **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedule**
139 Commissioners discussed current events.

140
141 **Discussion-Market Stock Fund-Brent Timm**
142 Mr. Brent Timm thanked the commissioners for allowing the Market Stock Fund to handle the
143 2023 Okanogan County Fair stock sale.

144
145 Mr. Timm provided the summary of the sales. (attached) There weren't any prime animals due to
146 the kids not finishing the animals out. But the sale was good and \$592,716 was paid to the kids.
147 He explained it is really great to see the community support and it really shows in the numbers.
148 Commissioner Hover asked if the online sales worked out well. Mr. Timm said it was difficult and
149 most were from the physical attendees. ShowWorks has a module that we could add on that
150 allows participation online and would digitize the process. It would also help with the back-end
151 work where it is manually entered which takes a lot of hours. Market Stock could buy the module
152 or help with the cost.

153

154 There are some recommended changes on how to pay the kids. The Post Office is terrible about
155 remitting to the addresses and about 90 checks are still out there that still have not cleared the
156 bank. Mr. Timm would like to know other ways to deliver the checks because they are prepared
157 and ready to be sent by the 15th of October. He would like to find a way for kids to double check
158 their name and address where the checks are to be sent. Commissioner Hover stated the parents
159 should ensure their kids information is accurate for the payouts.

160
161 Also, if registrations were digitized we could figure out a way to network, but software is expensive.
162 Adding the module to ShowWorks is doable. Mr. Timm will work with Eric Fritts to see how it would
163 work out.

164
165 At 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Hover attended a labor related meeting.

166
167 **Public Hearing-Lake Management District Roles-Pete Palmer**

168 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Director of Planning Pete Palmer provided
169 her staff report. (attached) She stated the public hearing was properly advertised in the county's
170 newspaper of record. She stated this hearing is for the annual certification of the 2024 special
171 assessment roll for the district. The roles were adjusted.

172
173 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to public testimony. No public wished to comment.

174
175 **Motion Resolution 185-2023 Certifying 2024 Lake Management District Rolls**

176 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 185-2023 certifying the 2024 Special
177 Assessment rolls for Lake Management District #1. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
178 motion carried.

179
180 Commissioners recessed for lunch at 12:07 p.m.
181 Commissioners returned at 1:30 p.m.

182
183 **Public Hearing 2024 Budget**

184 Commissioners resumed their budget hearing from earlier this morning. Commissioner Hover
185 displayed the preliminary budget via share screen on zoom for the public to see. Commissioners
186 reviewed their beginning fund balance and revisited the yellowed line items. Commissioners
187 discussed the requested positions by other departments and what funds could fund them. When
188 review was completed the board asked the clerk to post the budget on the website.

189
190 **Motion Post 2024 Summary County Budget to Website**

191 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to post the draft budget summary on
192 the county website. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

193
194 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**

195 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 3:06 p.m. until 3:20 p.m. inviting
196 Albert Lin, Esther Milner and Shelley Keitzman under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). Motion was
197 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried

198
199 Commissioners extended executive session at 3:20 until 3:40 p.m.

200
201 Commissioners extended executive session at 3:40 p.m. until 3:45 p.m.

202
203 Commissioners extended executive session at 3:45 until 3:50 p.m.

204

205 Executive session ended at 3:50 p.m.

206

207 Commissioners recessed until 5:30 p.m. in order to travel to Oroville City chambers.

208

209 **Public Hearing-Lake Management District- OROVILLE CHAMBERS-1210 Ironwood St,**
210 **Oroville**

211 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to public testimony.

212

213 Member of the public, Jan Lewis, resides at south side of Boundary Point. He believed the program
214 hasn't worked in the five years since the assessments started. He said the lake has not been
215 treated in front of his house and it is the worst year for milfoil. Mr. Lewis has tried to call the number
216 given and never gets a follow-up letter about where treatments are happening and no one ever
217 calls back. Mr. Lewis tried fishing the lake, but can't because of the milfoil is so bad. It is floating
218 and growing everywhere. He doesn't see any gain with the harvesters in Canada turning it up. He
219 wondered what the harvester was doing on US side by Veranda Beach. He feels the milfoil gets
220 thicker over the years.

221

222 Raleigh Chinn resident at 74 West Lake Road, helped create the district. Last year it looked like
223 little to no treatment happened in front of his house and there were no signs posted stating
224 treatment happened. He sees lots of milfoil in front of his house. He is in favor of maintaining the
225 levy to make sure it works.

226

227 Jason Moreau resident at 12 Turtle Lane said he is within a quarter mile from Canada. The
228 treatments worked well the first year, but subsequent years it didn't. This year he was told some
229 sort of treatment happened, but milfoil is the worst he has ever seen this year. He would be in favor
230 if we went back to year one and dropped the chemicals used then.

231

232 Diana Hartvig provided photos of the lake in September. She doesn't think treatments are working.
233 She wanted to be exempt from the assessment because she has no boat and likes the birds. It
234 isn't just the Canadians spreading the weed, it is the boats in the lake that reseed it and the re-
235 damming of the lake allows it to sit in the still waters of the beach. It keeps people from enjoying
236 the lake. She feels the ones using the lake the most are the ones getting exempted. Lake
237 Management people said it hasn't worked so far. It was 2020 when the lake was at its best and
238 didn't smell like a gas station. The photos were taken right from her property. 104c West Lake one
239 quarter mile from Deep Bay Park. Garbage and scum happen right after certain functions. She
240 would rather use ideas rather than the poison because the poison isn't working.

241

242 Keri Sullivan resident at 108 East Lake Road said treatments were working at first but now it isn't.
243 She sees the milfoil floating in from Canada. Why are they still using a harvester?

244

245 Noxious Weed Office Manager, Larry Hudson, stated he has reported to Dept of Ecology for the
246 last couple years. The harvester is illegal. The Canadians were cutting down the bull rush from
247 properties. Everyone asked for the DOE contact number so they could follow up.

248

249 Diana Hartvig asked, why not charge people for using the lake with their boats.

250

251 Marlene Barker stated she is close to Canada and has not gotten good service, but last year she
252 saw the stakes on the beach with the spray notice but they never came and actually sprayed. The
253 problem is getting worse and worse and she sees it coming from Canada.

254

255 Craig Jones is in the red zone near Boundary Point. The first year was great and nice and bare,
256 the next year there was no treatment. He assumed it was agreed to, but the cutter spreads it
257 everywhere. He said the spray was with pesticide that did not kill the milfoil. It is half a mile into
258 the lake and he hasn't seen it this bad.

259
260 Mr. Hudson said he was contacted by DOE and reminded of the buffer. He worked with Canada
261 and now they have an approved herbicide and it only treats milfoil. The pond weeds are native and
262 very good habitat for wildlife. Commissioner Branch asked about the recent change in herbicide
263 and asked if it was used this year? It was used to treat every buffer zone. Mr. Hudson said it is
264 very costly and so only portions of the lake were treated. He planned on doing treatments in upper
265 lake but the Eagle Bluff Fire affected the ability to treat so funding is going into next year's budget.
266

267 Jan Lewis asked if boat tags could include fees for treating milfoil. Canadian boat users are not
268 paying a fee, but US tags could include a fee for everyone to put their boat in the water.
269

270 ProcellaCor is now allowed and it was used on the East side of lake and it was very effective said
271 Mr. Hudson. The west side did receive some treatment by the border and down the west side until
272 funds ran out. The eastside was where spraying was lacking due to the fire.
273

274 Commissioner Branch appreciated the discussion and testimony. The board wants it to work too.
275

276 The red zone is where only certain chemicals can be used. The DOE contacted Larry Hudson and
277 it was agreed no treatment would be used there. They would not back the district if we treated the
278 red zone. ProcellaCor is the only herbicide allowed in the area. Other areas are treated differently
279 than the red zone. Chemicals cannot be distributed among land owners.
280

281 John Moran said his area was treated a lot and he pays on a yearly basis and catches everything
282 since he is on the corner. He sees the treatments working and he is good with the assessment at
283 \$160. Commissioner Branch stated if the voters approve the district he is interested in learning
284 what works. He said the feedback is important about what is working and what is not.
285

286 Someone asked what it would cost to treat the whole lake, \$100,000 was an estimate. The public
287 asked if letters would go out on treatment areas? Mr. Hudson said he has been sending the letters
288 out annually. The permit says the shorelines must be posted where the treatments happen. Some
289 said they were not getting the annual letters and areas are not getting posted. Mr. Hudson said
290 the letters were started last year and will continue to be sent out. Everyone liked the letter this
291 year. Everyone on the rolls should get a letter.
292

293 Someone asked why can't this be a city of Oroville tax? Why only a few get assessed when there
294 are many lake users that live in town. Commissioner Branch said not everyone uses the lake.
295

296 Someone asked if Canada will start using chemicals instead of the harvester. Mr. Hudson said
297 they still use the lake for potable water and he doesn't think they will start using chemicals.
298

299 Commissioner Neal stated he has been in contact with Canada as they are talking about
300 developing a water shed and chemicals would definitely be an issue. They have an opportunity to
301 make a watershed type decision. Their goal is to receive a lot more local input. Their commission
302 deals with five lakes.
303

304 If this ballot passes it is \$160 annually over the next five years. Some were getting assessed \$240
305 and others \$160, said Jan Lewis. Commissioner Branch closed the public testimony and opened

306 up to commissioner discussion. Are they prepared to decide tonight or continue consideration to
307 another day?

308
309 Commissioner Hover said this would be a five-year assessment. He would really like to see if
310 something is working before keeping it going. And, it is a tough decision if we aren't gaining on it,
311 will it get worse if it isn't approved? Right now, he is leaning against restating the assessment
312 because of the testimony today as it doesn't seem to be working consistently to keep milfoil down.
313 He doesn't want to increase the assessment to take care of it. Commissioner Neal said he's been
314 involved from day one. He vacuumed and weighed milfoil as a high school project and it has gotten
315 much worse since. He doesn't live on the lake but he does use it a little. He agrees everyone who
316 uses it should pay a fee, but at this point he believes it does make a difference. The type of
317 herbicide does seem to make a difference. It is something that needs to continue. Commissioner
318 Branch said he wrote a paper on milfoil once and at that time the weed was treated with 24D. He
319 said there could be potential harm in using chemicals on the lake then because the treatment was
320 carcinogenic. We don't have the same risk with the chemicals used now. There are other methods
321 to be explored but those may not be as effective. Creation of the district was due to a petition. It
322 was a majority vote and the district was created to control the milfoil. He was apprehensive about
323 moving forward due to the comments. It would take an extra effort to monitor the results and would
324 cost more but could provide needed feedback. A public meeting after treatments would help inform
325 the board of ineffectiveness then move forward with something that could work better. Mr. Hudson
326 said the herbicide treatments have a lot of restrictions and it is difficult to do one treatment. Timing
327 and use all chemicals per treatment schedule would work. There is a lot of restrictions due to water
328 usage on the lake. He feels several patches look better, but once controlled a lot of native pond
329 plants do take over. He encouraged people to call his office. The Canadians use the harvester on
330 five lakes and costs them about \$800,000 per year and doesn't control it but does make it safer to
331 use the shorelines. The cost is more than herbicide. ProcellaCor is the only herbicide allowed in
332 Canada and it was just approved in April this year

333
334 The red zone is the problem area and many at the meeting are from the area. They support a lake
335 district but they are not happy with the results in that area. The red zone doesn't get the same level
336 of treatment and with Canada using a harvester milfoil is getting worse. Mr. Hudson replied the
337 area did get did get treated in the upper zones and he expects a lot better result next year. The
338 milfoil did collapse at the sites treated. It isn't going to be crystal clear lake as re-vegetation will
339 happen.

340
341 Commissioner Branch said the district would be created by a vote of the people. The resolution
342 directs the planning office to send the ballot out the vote would authorize the collection of the
343 assessment. Jan Lewis asked if the Canadians were allowed to vote as they own about 80% of
344 the properties around the lake? They are also payers.

345
346 Commissioner Branch said it would be useful to know how other lakes are treated and what those
347 proposals and studies on the snails looked like. Larry Hudson and Commissioner Neal are talking
348 with Canada on their watershed approach and will see about obtaining info like that.

349
350 Some spoke about the pond weeds that pop up once milfoil is dead. Hand pulling those may be
351 an optional method.

352
353 **Motion**
354 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 187-2023 which approved the submission of the
355 proposal and ballots to owners of the land within the proposed lake management district to create
356 a lake management district at Lake Osoyoos for the control of milfoil and other invasive species.

357 Motion was seconded, Commissioner Hover discussed the need to get a weed management plan
358 together and manage the weeds better. Commissioner Neal agreed. There needs to be more
359 communication between landowners and the weed board about treatment areas. Commissioner
360 Branch said the results from this year will be seen next year. Before the vote is due he would like
361 a newsletter to the landowners that points out these things. It would help inform people as they go
362 to vote. He asked that Noxious Weed re-send the newsletter that will inform the voters. If the vote
363 comes in favor of the district creation then the board will need to make sure the strategy is laid out
364 by the Weed office that will inform the BOCC. Commissioner Hover voted nay and was opposed,
365 Commissioner Neal and Branch were in favor. Commissioner Hover said this time around he
366 hoped that a strategy comes together before asking people to vote for this. Some said that they
367 would pay more in order to treat the whole lake. Since landowners leave for the winter and are not
368 here, when will the ballots be mailed. Within thirty days.

369
370 Commissioners are hoping to get adaptive feedback on the treatments and success of the new
371 chemical. They expect growing pains. Everyone will get a ballot.

372
373 Commissioner Hover discussed the need to develop a strategy if the landowners vote for this.
374 Commissioner Neal discussed forming an advisory board compiled of district assessed lake users.
375 Craig said the most expensive herbicide to use is the one that doesn't work. Are there matching
376 funds from other agencies that could help? Mr. Hudson said DNR has contributed by providing
377 some herbicides and Mr. Hudson will continue to ask for that. Donations for treatments would be
378 great.

379
380 The meeting was closed at 6:39 p.m.