

1 **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

2 **OKANOGAN COUNTY**

3 **DECEMBER 8, 2021**

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8 **9:00 AM** **Continued Public Hearing County 2022 Budget**

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10 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North,
11 Okanogan, Washington on December 8, 2021 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-
12 Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover Member, and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns,
13 present.

14

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

17

18 Commissioner Jim DeTro was not present until 9:20 a.m.

19

20 **Continued Public Hearing County 2022 Budget**

21 Auditor Hall, Treasurer McCormack, Lisa Schreckengost

22

23 Auditor Hall explained adjustments to Juvenile's BECCA grant budget for employee costs that
24 included a split in wages between BECCA 30% and fund 001.014 for one employee and adjusted
25 the second employee to half time from full time. Revenue was reduced. Commissioner Hover
26 stated if the funds cannot support the staffing costs those employee hours may need to be
27 reduced. The fund has been spending down its beginning fund balance over the years.

28

29 Superior Court received AOC grant funds around \$120,000 for the Justice Center items such as
30 desks and chairs. Superior Court revenue lines were reviewed.

31

32 The group discussed the CJTA pass through payback amount. The budget can be adjusted later
33 if the amount isn't accurate.

34

35 Cari discussed the many funded open positions. Are we really going to have those filled by
36 January? Keep position unfunded until filled. Commissioner Hover said no, he would rather do
37 the levy shift. We balance the budget on the carryover. If we were to spend 100% of our budget
38 this year, then we have zero carryover for next year.

39

40 Sales tax revenue was reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Branch stated fiscal year 2021
41 was not figured into the work sheet.

42

43 Commissioner Hover discussed shortfalls to fund all requests. He said his priority is to provide
44 non-bargaining pay scale adjustment and a 2% raise instead of an assistant civil attorney.
45 Treasurer McCormack commented on departments budgeting higher revenue estimates but it is
46 way off considering what is actually received. She wondered if other departments do it as well. It
47 is good when we receive at least 92-100% budgeted, it is not alright if we are only receiving 75%
48 of the budgeted amount.

49

50 Auditor Hall asked why the DOC revenue was so low. It is because of Border Patrol booking and
51 boarding to its immigration policy changes.

52 Planning fees were increased recently and budget should be adjusted to include in 2022 budget.

53

54 Commissioners revisited the ARPA rules in terms of the kinds of expenses it can cover.

55

56 Commissioners discussed and reviewed Fairgrounds revenue estimates.

57

58 Dennis Rabidou arrived at 11:35 a.m. as requested to go over BECCA Bill budget.

59

60 Commissioner Hover feels the budget is ready to adopt and recommended adoption.

61

62 Commissioner Branch asked the Board if they might want to continue the hearing to Monday for
63 public testimony so the final adjustments could be posted for comment. He stated the budget
64 hearing and process makes it difficult for the public to testify because the public doesn't know
65 when the county is going to open up its public testimony portion. He felt it made the process more
66 meaningful. Commissioner Hover did not care to do that, Commissioner DeTro in agreement.

67

68 Commissioner Branch opened up the public testimony portion of the hearing. Seeing no one to
69 testify, he closed the hearing.

70

71 **Motion Resolution 157-2021 Adopting the County's 2022 Budget**

72 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 157-2021 adopting the county's 2022 budget
73 including Current Expense, Public Works, Road fund, and Miscellaneous budgets. Motion
74 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

75

76 Commissioner Branch noted that once he closed the hearing for public testimony and a decision
77 has been made it should be clear that the public hearing is closed.

78

79 **Motion Resolution 154-2021 Noxious Weed Levy 2022 Collection**

80 Commissioner Hover moved to approve Noxious Weed Control levy to be collected in 2022.
81 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

82

83 **Motion Resolution 163-2021 Road Levy Shift**

84 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 163-2021 a road levy shift in the amount of
85 \$250,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

86

87 The board adjourned at 10:15 a.m.