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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

DECEMBER 6, 2021

9:00 AM Executive Session RCW 42.30.110-Planning-Commissioners' Conference Room
To Follow Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda
9:30 AM Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Weekly Meetings & Schedule
10:00 AM Discussion-FAC Policies & Procedures-Naomi Peasley
11:00 AM Public Hearing-Okanogan County 2022 Budget
1:30 PM Review Meeting Minutes
2:00 PM Department Head Meeting-Commissioners' Hearing Room or Zoom

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on December 6, 2021 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the special Public Health Voucher certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 that have been recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. including regular vouchers in the amount of \$43,732. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110-Planning-Commissioners' Conference Room

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:00 a.m. for 15 minutes inviting Chief Civil Deputy David Gecas, Attorney Jenna Rice and Planning Director Pete Palmer to discuss legal matters related to the county's Comprehensive Plan. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended executive session at 9:15 a.m. for another 15 minutes.

Executive session was extended another 15 minutes at 9:30 a.m.

Executive session ended at 9:45 a.m. no decisions were made.

Discussion-FAC Policies & Procedures-Naomi Peasley

Ms. Peasley stated the tractor fan belt is broken on the tractor right now. The Side by Side is also broken down. The new leaf vacuum is awesome and really good, but not able to finish since the tractor broke down.

Ms. Peasley discussed the Fair policies and procedures. (attached) Originally the document was drafted by Commissioner Kennedy. Ms. Peasley would like to make it clearer what the FAC responsibilities are and discussed the changes made. The policy was provided to the FAC in August but little to no feed back has been given by members. Ms. Peasley went over the changes she made. Eliminated the FAC's part in the ground's maintenance. Each committee member is asked to sign the policy and procedures as acknowledgement of their responsibilities. There is

52 some agreement by the members to have a better structure and guideline to follow. Eliminated
53 the treasurer position since actual county staff takes that on.

54

55 Does this committee need to abide by the Open Public Meetings act? Commissioner Branch
56 explained his research on this matter in regards to SWAC. We need to double check that. The
57 LTAC abides by the open public meetings act. Commissioner Hover asked which part and what
58 was the big issue. Commissioner Branch noted that regardless as to whether required by law the
59 policy could, in fact, require it. He also noted that if this is the choice then the committee needs
60 to fully understand the requirements and follow them. Ms. Peasley comment that these
61 procedures had never been followed. Commissioner Branch said the FAC still had some things
62 to look at before adopting the policy and procedures.

63

64 Ms. Peasley provided a list of projects with costs in an amount just under \$1million. (attached)
65 The funding sources were not included as it was not known. There is other revenue that she did
66 not talk about during budget session related to rentals. She would like it added now for these
67 projects. The engineer has been contacted to condemn the grandstands. Commissioner Branch
68 stated the board would not lose track of the fairgrounds vision.

69

70 **Public Hearing-Okanogan County 2022 Budget**

71 Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost, Charleen Groomes, Leah McCormack, Lauri Jones, Sheriff Tony
72 Hawley, Aaron Culp, Chris Culp, Laura Wright, Dennis Rabidou, Pete Palmer

73

74 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to staff and asked Commissioner Hover if he
75 would like to lead. Commissioner Hover began by stating that there had been several budget
76 workshops that have been recorded and the final budget has been posted for a couple of weeks
77 now. He also noted that the budget in its nearly final form has been posted on the County website
78 and this hearing can be continued no more than five times and budget must be adopted by
79 December 31, 2021. There are some budget items that need a bit more work. Commissioner
80 Hover stated he did not email the LTAC budget for incorporation although it is completed. It is
81 unlikely the budget will be ready to adopt today. AT this point we are \$291,000 in the black. The
82 departmental staffing and wage requests and any other expenses for consideration would need
83 funding in the amount of \$558,806 and that doesn't include the non-bargaining wage requests. It
84 includes new cars for the Prosecutor and Clerk to drive back and forth from the new justice center.
85 The BOCC will need to prioritize what they are going to do.

86

87 Commissioners discussed funding Public Health from ARPA funds and reducing the amount
88 provided by Current Expense. Commissioner Hover stated that he had been working on the
89 budget with public health. Lauri Jones explained her fear that the county isn't going to solidify the
90 funds to public health in a resolution. Public Health is billing FEMA for use of fairgrounds and
91 trailers. The ARPA funds are reimbursable, said Commissioner Hover. Ms. Jones asked about
92 establishment of premium pay. Commissioner Hover suggested creating a tiered payment
93 scheduled if the board does provide premium pay. Auditor Hall thought the allocation to public
94 health of ARPA funds would include premium pay, and it wouldn't be a separate allocation.
95 Commissioner Hover stated premium pay should not be out of line with sheriff employees. Ms.
96 Jones stated she has employees who are working out of class for nearly two years, and PH will
97 have a hard time hiring experienced people and thinks premium pay may be the only way to entice
98 applicants.

99

100 Superior Court discussed their additional requests for the 2022 budget regarding the Judicial
101 Assistants. Mr. Rabidou said salary survey resulted in 29 county responses with 4 responses from
102 our comparable counties. Judge Culp said Okanogan County falls at the very very bottom of the

103 survey. Commissioner Hover said everyone has needs to look at. Mr. Rabidou said he compared
104 the salary paid by the lowest county (Stevens) and it comes out around \$900 below.
105 Commissioner Hover stated his number 2 priority was to provide non-bargaining correction of the
106 pay scale parity and provide a 2% raise.

107
108 Mr. Rabidou stated he thought the Judicial Assistants should be paid a base of \$3,162.

109
110 Undersheriff discussed adding the costs of the Jail assessment/remodel needs in Capital
111 Improvement budget.

112
113 Commissioners recessed at 12:10 p.m. for lunch and picking up the budget discussion afterward.

114
115 The board returned from a brief lunch break with Sheriff Hawley and Aaron Culp to go over the
116 requests of the Sheriff.

117
118 Undersheriff Culp explained the preliminary jail budget did not include the additional costs of
119 training new employees as the training went from a 4-week academy to a 10-week academy for
120 four employees.

121
122 The Sheriff's budget was reviewed as the Sheriff would like to add two additional full-time
123 employee positions. Budget adjustments were made for revenue and expenditure for a one-time
124 Dept of Commerce state grant-Less Lethal Grant.

125
126 A security guard for the courthouse was discussed since the officer covering security was
127 repositioned which left the security of the courts open. Sheriff Hawley explained issues in another
128 county that were covered by retired law enforcement officers that may work for our situation.
129 Auditor Hall stated her office also needs security not just the courts or the courthouse. Treasurer
130 McCormack appreciates the Sheriff handling the security, the Treasurer, Auditor and Assessor
131 has always been treated as the courts being priority. Her staff feels like they do not count or
132 matter. The group doesn't want to lose the little bit of security in the courthouse that they do have.
133 It isn't just about court security it's the whole courthouse/campus security.

134
135 Commissioner Hover stated the board will need to decide who gets people. He is not in favor of
136 authorizing three GIS positions in 2022. A chief civil attorney assistant is his priority.
137 Commissioner Branch thought additional revenue should be found to cover the costs of the
138 positions or do without the third GIS position. We've been with two for a very long time.

139
140 Commissioner Hover stated will cost \$88,200 to give the non-bargaining a 2% raise. He said the
141 county isn't planning on a levy shift to cover the costs. Treasurer McCormack stated all eastern
142 counties are doing a levy shift to support the people working in current expense. Commissioner
143 Hover said the BOCC will need to cut people then because current expense cannot keep up.

144
145 Commissioners do not wish to surplus the Assessor's Envoy as another current expense
146 department can use it. The vehicle purchase requests were discussed.

147
148 If we receive the \$25,000 from Geico Insurance for the wrecked Sheriff patrol vehicle it will go
149 directly into current expense because the vehicles have already been purchased because we are
150 doing the transfers.

151
152 RCO milestone Methow Conservancy was discussed as the contract will need to be approved.

153

154 BECCA was discussed as there are staff changes the fund cannot support as the grant is
155 reimbursable and hardly anything is being collected and only \$16,000.

156
157 Commissioners reviewed the Fairgrounds budget. There was a request for RV software that the
158 manager will need to discuss in detail with commissioners.

159
160 **Motion**

161 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the Sheriff to order their 2022 cars in advance. Motion
162 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

163
164 **Motion**
165 Commissioner Hover moved to continue the public hearing to adopt the county's 2022 budget to
166 Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

167
168 **Motion Resolution 153-2021 Jr. Taxing District 2022 Budgets**
169 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 153-2021 adopting the Jr. Taxing District 2022
170 Budgets. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

171
172 **Motion Letter of Support DNR Alluvial Fans**
173 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the letter of support to Dept. of Natural Resources for the
174 alluvial fan mapping in Okanogan County. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

175
176 **CANCELLED Department Head Meeting-Commissioners' Hearing Room or Zoom**

177
178 The board adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
179