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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

DECEMBER 7, 2021

9:00 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting-Commissioners' Hearing Room
10:30 AM Update-Communications/Dispatch-Mike Worden
11:00 AM Public Hearing-Utility Franchise Renewal-Elmer City Utility -Jo Stansbury
To Follow Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Public Comment Period
2:00 PM Update-OBHC Contract Review-David McClay, Dennis Rabidou
2:50 PM Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Fairgrounds Fund 001.028
2:55 PM Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Title III Fund 137
3:00 PM Quarterly Update-Tonasket Forest Ranger District-Kathleen Johnson
4:00 PM Approve Commissioner Proceedings November 29 & 30, 2021
4:15 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on December 7, 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.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting-Commissioners' Hearing Room

Joe Poulin, Maurice Goodall, Stephanie Palmer

Joe Poulin provided his facility maintenance report. He explained the new Justice Center building has nine HVAC units on the roof and only three provide heat and only one has a working cooling compressor. Any replacement units may take up to one year to receive. Alternative heat sources may need to be considered once offices begin to be filled. Divco is going to evaluate the current systems at \$128 per hour per person to see what the units need. The HVAC replacements are part of a bigger renovation project and the commissioners would like the architect involved. The predesign plan may change a little bit if SC and DC are located there at first.

Mr. Poulin said the Keyhole alarm system agreement will need to be reviewed and approved if the commissioners wish to continue the services. The fire alarm system is up to date. We need to know how the system works for the tenants in relation to door security and who gets called when the alarm sounds.

Maurice Goodall stated the VG building fire alarm was pulled by a disgruntled person. He said the county has no protocols for these types of incidents. Commissioners talked about an after-action meeting that should occur after an alarm is sounded to find out what worked and what did not. The Clerk of the Board asked when a unit is dispatched and there is no actual fire, does the county get charged for that? Commissioner Branch explained that in certain circumstances yes. Mr. Goodall will follow up as emergency manager.

Joe Poulin stated the courts asked for additional doors and walls to be installed, and he wants to make sure these don't close off the emergency exits. He will contact architect Michael Beaman with his concern.

54
55 Planning Director Pete Palmer explained a budget supplemental will be needed to the planning budget
56 in order to pay for the new contract for Water Conservancy administration work. Commissioner Hover
57 said the line item may go into the negative and asked the payment be made.

58
59 Pete Palmer would appreciate direction on when the fire alarm goes off and what the protocol is for
60 different activity. She thinks some training would be helpful such as the active shooter training. Not
61 everyone can hear the fire alarm to know it is a fire alarm. There should be protocols in place and
62 practices.

63
64 Ms. Palmer said she is scheduling dates for file pick up for scanning and archiving.

65
66 Mr. Goodall stated Verizon phones are having issues as he is getting contacted. Commissioner Hover
67 asked if Verizon's towers are down somewhere. He thinks a commissioner should investigate by
68 talking to a higher up. A few earthquakes happened in the last few days around Tonasket and Pine
69 Creek areas. We should have a county master plan, facility plan and departmental plan as the state is
70 asking him for his. Commissioners discussed the need for a facility master plan. Commissioner Branch
71 requested Goodall to investigate various protocols with the fire department etc.

72
73 **Continued Public Hearing Okanogan County 2022 Budget**

74 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing asking for an update on the action items to be
75 completed. Auditor Hall provided the update explaining what has been done and what is still to be
76 completed.

77
78 The Jr. Taxing district budgets were discussed. The LTAC budget was completed.

79
80 Commissioner Hover discussed putting remaining budget towards contingency reserve for the
81 remaining requests to consider. Commissioner DeTro stated he is in favor or authorizing the
82 Treasurer's office an additional position as it affects everyone when the work isn't done. The
83 department is strapped.

84
85 Jail revenue for booking and boarding un Governmental was reviewed because \$500,000 was
86 budgeted to be received in 2021 but only \$44,357 has been received. It appears Booking/Boarding
87 fees was budgeted \$200,000 but only \$37,700 received. In 2020, the county received respectfully
88 \$371,164 and \$195,000 of the total amounts budgeted in these two lines.

89
90 Commissioner Hover discussed the possibility of a road levy shift due to the lack of revenue these two
91 lines items received and will potentially receive in 2022. Revenue for the sale of a portion of the miller
92 pit property to Fish & Wildlife was not budgeted. The group reviewed current expense revenue
93 because now we are in the hole to discuss options. Commissioner Hover said it will cost about \$90,000
94 to give non-bargaining 2% raise. He would like to know the assessed value of the property to add that
95 in, then do a levy shift of the same amount around \$500,000-\$750,000 to cover the costs of providing
96 the parity in the non-bargaining pay scale.

97
98 **Motion Continued Public Hearing Okanogan County 2022 Budget Adoption**

99 Commissioner Hover moved to continue the county's budget hearing on its 2022 budget to
100 Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

101
102 **Public Hearing-Utility Franchise Renewal-Elmer City Utility Public Works-Jo Stansbury**

103 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to staff. Ms. Stansbury provided her staff report.
104 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to public testimony. No public desiring to testify, he
105 closed the hearing.

106

107 **Motion 156-2021 Franchise Agreement Elmer City Domestic Water Line**
108 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 156-2021 adopting a Franchise Agreement with
109 Elmer City for its Domestic Water Line. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

110
111 **Update-Communications/Dispatch-Mike Worden**
112 Aaron Culp

113
114 Mr. Worden explained he is waiting for transfer switch to arrive this week, but with ground freeze the
115 courthouse generator project will likely be completed in the spring. Commissioner Hover asked to go
116 into executive session.

117
118 Need feed back from Dispatch advisory board with presentations expected in January. 911 system
119 refresh is scheduled at that time as well and will include 3-4 other counties established us as an anchor
120 for a cooperative phone system and is a positive for us strategically.

121
122 Mr. Worden updated on the following improvement projects: Refreshed radio at Oroville base which is
123 an improvement for identifying issues and now has the ability to have two connections in Oroville for
124 additional talk paths to the county and that is an improvement as well. Waiting for a grant award for
125 Tunk Mt equipment shed facility.

126
127 Commissioner Hover asked who the Verizon contact person is for our region because there is less
128 capacity for data transfer and connectivity. Coverages evolved when new technologies such as switch
129 from 4g to 5g are put into place can affect these things. Commissioner Hover would like a comment
130 about the coverage degradation in Brewster and Methow area.

131
132 Commissioner Hover asked for executive session to discuss legal matters.

133
134 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**
135 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 11:10 a.m. for 5 minutes inviting Aaron
136 Culp, Mike Worden, David Gecas, and Lanie Johns to discuss potential litigation. Motion was seconded,
137 all were in favor, motion carried.

138
139 Executive session was extended at 11:15 for another 5 minutes.
140 Executive session ended at 11:20 a.m., no decisions were made.

141
142 **Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
143 Commissioner Hover relayed to Engineer Thomson that the county may authorize a road levy shift to
144 help cover costs and the fact revenue from the sale of county PW property was not budgeted. Engineer
145 Thomson said that would be possible. He said one of the properties has a small stock pile of material
146 to be relocated to prepare the property for the sale. There are two parcels one 10-acre and one 11-
147 acre parcel.

148
149 Commissioner Hover discussed the fact that lost Jail booking and boarding revenue is directly related
150 to COVID and amounted to around \$500,000. He compared 2018 booking and board revenue and
151 noted a significant loss. There is about \$1.2 million in lost revenue since that time due to COVID.

152
153 Commissioners also discussed rearranging county offices and the relocation of Public Works
154 administration.

155
156 *Maintenance Road Conditions*
157 Engineer Thomson provided his road maintenance and conditions update.

158

159 The contractor working on Cache Creek guardrail that burned this year will wrap up this week. Almost
160 130 posts burned.

161
162 *Bridge Load Rating*

163 There are around 32 bridges to be rated so budget was discussed for those ratings.

164
165 Engineer Thomson asked commissioners to consider two resolutions regarding ER&R imprest fund
166 and Liberty Woodlands Sewer rates.

167
168 **Motion Resolution 161-2021 Liberty Woodlands Sewer**

169 Commissioner Hover moved to approve 161-2021 Liberty Woodlands sewer rates for 2022. Motion was
170 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

171
172 **Motion Resolution 162-2021 Terminating ER&R Imprest Fund**

173 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 162-2021 terminating the ER&R Imprest fund.
174 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

175
176 **Public Comment Period**

177 No public commented today. Commissioners Branch and Hover discussed planning and development.

178
179 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

180 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
181 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list,
182 and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve
183 the regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,284,405.09 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of
184 \$1,078,393.77. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and
185 carried.

186
187 **Motion Public Health Voucher**

188 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the
189 amount of \$20,645.22 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$54,518.72. Warrant numbers as cited on
190 the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

191
192 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

193 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS
194 District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

195
196 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley
197 EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$58,867.75. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
198 motion carried.

199
200 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and reconvene as the
201 BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

202
203 **Approve Consent Agenda**

204 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-8 as presented. Motion was
205 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 206 1. Contract-Fair Entertainment Sept 8, 2022-Romeo Entertainment
207 2. Interlocal Agreement-Building Inspection Services Town of Winthrop
208 3. Interlocal Agreement Building Inspection Services Town of Twisp
209 4. Interlocal Agreement Building Inspection Services City of Okanogan
210 5. Memorandum of Agreement- Public Lands Lobbyist-Robert Weidner

- 211 6. Acknowledge Fairgrounds Facility Use Agreements: Wedding-Miranda Carden; Quince-Jose &
212 Elvia Loyala; Halloween Dance-Omak High School; Haunted Steer Barn-Okanogan Drama Club;
213 SNAPP Working Group-The Nature Conservancy; Quince-Isabell Velazquez; Quince-Emiliana
214 Vargas
215 7. Resolution 155-2021 Sole Source Equinox Horseracing
216 8. Resolution 160-2021 Rescinding Declaration of Emergency Cedar & Cub Creek Fires
217

218 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings November 29 & 30, 2021**

219 Commissioner Branch stated he would like more time to review the meeting minutes.
220

221 **Update-OBHC Contract Review-David McClay, Dennis Rabidou**

222 Executive Director David McClay provided his OBHC update. He explained the challenges OBHC is
223 experiencing as a result of changes in the law that no longer allow law enforcement officials to handle
224 certain mental health and substance abuse crisis. He explained the intake process for those in crisis.
225 The first step is that the person gets to the hospital.
226

227 Mr. McClay explained OBHC is trying to keep engaged with people and be more proactive. The system
228 is broken with nothing put into place to fill the gap. However, Law Enforcement and OBHC are working
229 on how to make it better. He is excited about the new software program that will allow better access to
230 records because that was part of the challenge.
231

232 Commissioner Hover said we need to do a better job getting people to the hospital since that is the first
233 step to getting them help. And, that is where emphasis should be put. Until the law is changed
234 something must be figured out. If we have behavioral health services why cannot we get something
235 done to coordinate a patient who doesn't want to go where they need to go.
236

237 Mr. McClay said OBHC is trying to put together a mobile crisis unit, but there are many challenges.
238

239 Commissioner Branch discussed his collaborative work regarding HB1333 and 1533.
240

241 Mr. McClay explained the work being done to provide increased pay to employees, but funding is a big
242 part of that. Workforce turnover creates a problem and it makes it more difficult to create or make
243 changes to programs. It is his preference to make what we have better. Mr. McCray wants to build a
244 solid foundation before creating more programs, besides, funding just isn't there for operation costs of
245 new programs.
246

247 Commissioner Branch discussed previous Senator Linda Parlette involvement in the ACH and
248 legislature and thought she may know some things about intervening in these types of situations.
249

250 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Fairgrounds Fund 001.028 \$39,000**

251 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing asking for staff report. No staff were present to
252 provide a report. Commissioner Branch then opened up the hearing to the public, seeing no public to
253 comment, he closed the hearing to public comment and opened up to commissioner discussion.
254

255 **Motion Resolution 158-2021 Budget Supplemental Fairgrounds**

256 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 158-2021 a budget supplemental appropriation
257 within fairgrounds fund 001.028 in the amount of \$39,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
258 motion carried.
259

260 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Title III Fund 137**

261 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing asking for staff report. Commissioner Hover stated
262 these funds will finish out the contract with Conservation District Fire Wise Program. Commissioner
263 Branch then opened up the hearing to the public, seeing no public to comment, he closed the hearing

264 to public comment and opened up to commissioner discussion. Commissioner Hover explained the
265 movement of the budget amounts.

266

267 **Motion Resolution 159-2021 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Title III**

268 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 159-2021 a budget supplemental within the Title III
269 fund 137 in the amount of \$5202. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

270

271 Commissioner Branch closed the hearing.

272

273 **Quarterly Update-Tonasket Forest Ranger District-Kathleen Johnson**

274 Tonasket Forest Ranger Kathleen Johnson provided her ranger district update. The fires are out, yeah!

275 Commissioner Hover asked what was burning near Bonaparte Lake. Ms. Johnson replied that the peat
276 bog caught fire and it will likely burn quite a while.

277

278 Ms. Johnson explained the Walker Fire had about 3 million board feet stacked from the fire for salvage
279 sales. CP category allows 250 acres per watershed for salvage sales. One salvage sale on each fire
280 of about 250 acres each. The emphasis was to harvest/target Douglas fir and Larch trees this winter
281 because there wasn't much time to complete the harvest.

282

283 Ms. Johnson explained FS vehicles are being vandalized in Tonasket as someone is drilling a hole in
284 the gas tank to steal the gas. It is the same thing that happened to Public Health vehicles.

285

286 The board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

287