

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

9:00 AM Budget Work Session-Emergency Management-Commissioners
10:00 AM Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)-David Gecas-Commissioners' Conference Rm
Okanogan County v. Dep't of Ecology; No. 21-2-00039-24
10:30 AM Budget Work Session-Clerk
11:15 AM Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda
11:20 AM Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules
11:30 AM Update Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley
1:30 PM Discussion-EquipShelter/Morgue Design Progress-Chief Worden, Coroner Rodriguez
To Follow Budget Work Session-Communications
3:00 PM Budget Work Session-Assessor
4:00 PM Budget Work Session-Building
4:55 PM Review Meeting Minutes

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on November 15, 2021 with; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover 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.

Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch was absent this week.
Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro absent but attended select meetings via zoom today.

AV Capture and the projector had issues this morning, but they were sorted out eventually by CS.

Budget Work Session-Emergency Management-Commissioners

Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall, Specialist Lauri Caswell, Auditor Cari Hall, Treasurer Leah McCormack, Finance Manager Lisa Schreckengost

The group reviewed Emergency Services fund 121. Grant reimbursements were discussed. Maurice Goodall explained he would like to go through the budget again because something wasn't quite right. He would like to discuss the wage amounts based on actual costs, but he'd like to stay at the grant amount but those numbers don't look quite right.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)-David Gecas-Commissioners' Conference Room

Okanogan County v. Dep't of Ecology; No. 21-2-00039-24

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:05 a.m. for 10 minutes inviting attorney David Gecas and Pete Palmer to discuss legal matters with Okanogan County v. Dep't of Ecology. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion was carried.

51 Executive session was extended at 10:15 a.m. for another 10 minutes.
52 Executive session was extended at 10:25 for 20 minutes.
53 Executive session ended at 10:45 a.m.

54

55 **Budget Work Session-Clerk**

56 Clerk Groomes, Auditor Cari Hall, Treasurer Leah McCormack, Finance Manager Lisa
57 Schreckengost

58

59 The group reviewed the Clerk's budget both the revenue and expenditure sections. The Clerk
60 noted some upcoming retirements happening in her office in 2022.

61

62 The group finished their review of the Clerk's budget and the Clerk exited.

63

64 Treasurer McCormack discussed the added costs of separating the Superior Court and
65 Juvenile functions from the rest of the courthouse. The extra cost of vehicles, staff time and
66 the extraneous remodeling, which will affect other departments in some way. Commissioner
67 Hover said the reality is that the court was taking up space and decreasing the revenue at
68 the fairgrounds. Treasurer McCormack continued to express her concern about costs of
69 splitting up the courts and impacts to the needs of other departments.

70

71 The group discussed how the county might utilize the Public Works/Public Health building to
72 augment the new arrangement for a criminal justice center.

73

74 **Review Commissioners Agenda & Consent Agenda**

75 Commissioners reviewed their agenda.

76

77 **Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules**

78 No quorum for the briefing.

79

80 **Update Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley**

81 Commissioner DeTro joined via zoom.

82

83 Ms. Peasley provided her fairgrounds update. There is currently no water on the grounds right
84 now due to an electrical issue. She said the door to the Annex broke and the wind keeps
85 blowing it open. Ms. Peasley said Skirko Tree Removal Service turned a bid in for tree
86 removal services.

87

88 Ms. Peasley asked if the board reviewed the Headliner concert proposal for 2022 fair for
89 \$40,000? She said the band is booking out quickly and a decision will be needed very soon.
90 This cost would be above and beyond the fair's normal budget for entertainment. (attached)

91

92 The Fairgrounds Capital Improvement list was reviewed. Ms. Peasley stated the Dept. of
93 Agriculture. safety grant was awarded \$250,000. She explained what the grant will pay for:
94 ecology blocks, racetrack rail, etc.... The county has to come up with \$125,000 for the cash
95 match.

96

97 A leak of the propane system created a safety concern over the weekend, it was a very
98 dangerous situation. Ms. Peasley said DIVCO must have installed the boiler wrong.

99

100 Ms. Peasley would like to differentiate between FAC duties and Fairgrounds Manager duties
101 to offset complaints received regarding coordination of tasks. There are some frustrated
102 members asking for commissioners' direction on things.

103
104 The commissioners said the policies and procedure updates are recommended by the FAC
105 for commissioner approval. Ms. Peasley said the Team responsibilities are not being
106 assigned or resolved or followed up on. Commissioner Hover suggested asking
107 Commissioner Branch to provide the direction to the FAC in as far as the FAC responsibilities
108 go and then educate on those responsibilities. Technically it is the BOCC's responsibility to
109 approve the budget, but it is Ms. Peasley's responsibility to relay to the FAC where they are
110 at with the budget periodically. The FAC should also provide periodical updates to the BOCC.

111
112 A budget supplemental will be submitted for the leaf vacuum.

113
114 The board adjourned at 11:55 until 1:30 p.m.

115
116 **Discussion-Equipment Shelter/Morgue Design Progress-Chief Worden, Coroner Rodriguez**
117 Coroner Dave Rodriguez, Undersheriff Aaron Culp, Chief Mike Worden

118
119 Chief Worden provided the fee proposal from Beaman Architecture for Okanogan County
120 Sheriff's equipment and Coroner storage building pre-design study and design. The design
121 service fee was proposed at \$237,752. (attached) This is a higher amount than a previous
122 proposal and includes the pre-design study and the study which added about \$40,000 but
123 puts us into a position to seek bids. Is this the amount proposed for Current Expense or are
124 there other funds identified? Chief Worden stated some of the costs could be applied to ARPA
125 funds. As we dive into the project, funding sources can be identified. Bonding capacity and
126 ability to pay back the money, is what Commissioner Hover is considering.

127
128 **Budget Work Session-Communications**

129 Coroner Dave Rodriguez, Undersheriff Aaron Culp, Chief Mike Worden, Auditor Cari Hall,
130 Treasurer Leah McCormack, Finance Manager Lisa Schreckengost

131
132 The group reviewed the revenue and expenditure budget of fund 161.
133 The group reviewed the Capital Improvement fund and discussed the projects to be paid from
134 the fund.

135 The group reviewed fund 120, 124 and fund 161.

136
137 **Budget Work Session-Assessor**

138 Assessor Larry Gilman, Deputy Assessor Jan Million, Auditor Cari Hall, Treasurer Leah
139 McCormack, Finance Manager Lisa Schreckengost

140
141 The group reviewed the Assessor's revenue and expenditure budgets. Questions about the
142 fund changes were asked, answered, then discussed. The assessor requested additional
143 staffing to start at grade 19 step 1, noting his department used to have 17 employees in the
144 past compared to 14 now.

145
146 The Building Official was requested for his department budget work session earlier than
147 scheduled.

148

149 **Budget Work Session-Building**

150 Building Official Dan Higbee, Auditor Cari Hall, Treasurer Leah McCormack, Finance
151 Manager Lisa Schreckengost

152

153 The budget work group reviewed the Building Dept 2022 budget requests reviewing both the
154 revenue and expenditures. The building permits and plan check revenue is not allocated and
155 is over what was budgeted to be received.

156

157 Mr. Higbee explained staffing requests to reclassify the grades to make the pay higher.
158 Commissioner Hover replied that across the board Okanogan County has to raise wages. He
159 said he is looking at what a general wage increase would look like to account for inflation and
160 85% was mentioned. We need to raise wages anywhere we can in order to be competitive
161 because we're not right now and its contributing the lack of workforce. Mr. Higbee said he
162 recently lost an applicant due to county wages being too low.

163

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

165