

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****JANUARY 25, 2021**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on January 25, 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 was not operable. ZOOM provided best audio accessibility and public interaction.

**Discussion Infrastructure Fund Status**

Commissioners discussed Infrastructure funds and an emerging opportunity they were asked to consider.

Treasurer McCormack was asked to provide information about keeping a reserve of at least two bond payments in the Infrastructure fund 117 account. She replied there is the GEO Thermal project bond and PWTF payments. The TV District #1 came in to request and secure funds for the repairs needed. \$600,000 is what we need to keep in the account for the GEO Bond, but that isn't counting the PWTF. \$169,000 doesn't even make one payment of the GEO Bond there is just under \$1.2 Million in there right now in cash, stated Treasurer McCormack. It was her understanding that nothing is guaranteed on this fund. It has been discussed. She is protective of this fund because of the bond payments coming from the fund. We still have 2021, 2022, and 2023 payments left on the Bond. The PWTF goes till 2036. Commissioner Branch noted that one does rely on the economy for collection of hookup fees. If this distressed county fund goes away the counties and cities would be paying from general funds.

\$850,000 reserve would be sufficient for both the GEO Bond and the PWTF payments.

There is a concern with county treasurers about having our own state bank, she is not in the minority. Commissioner Branch would like a further update on this later. There has been a lot of research on this with Davidson and Shawn Myers.

**Update Legislative Lobbyist-Zak Kennedy**

Mr. Kennedy provided email updates on the legislative session that is starting. (attached) Commissioners asked him to go through it.

Right now, the first one on the list is bill 5778 fire arms safety measures they appear to be going after and limiting high powered magazines. He will put together a list in a separate email on the fire arm proposals filed. There is nothing glaring to oppose, it is a lot of small sneaky things proposed to be changed and a lot of different small details to comb through to notice what will or might come back to hit us later on. There is a lot of conversations around region Public Health districts. Micro kitchens allow folks to make jam and sell it, but they are removing local controls and put down inspections of small kitchens by state. It removes local controls.

Small business opener bills were discussed and there was a tabling of the discussion to a later date, said Mr. Kennedy. They would need to vote on keeping the restrictions in place, seeing what happened and seeing a lot of feed back to reopen more than 25%. We are looking at \$5-6 per gallon for fuel soon. Funding for state transportation budget is generated with fuel tax.

Commissioner Hover thought the 9th circuit court of appeals threw out large magazine control. Mr. Kennedy stated they don't care they have bill proposals with more restrictions in the details.

Mr. Kennedy provided instructions to sign in to committee and submit testimony to the sponsors of the bills, which is extremely difficult this year. It is extremely important and is very hard due to no in person contact. Aides are not as accessible. Testimony is limited to around one minute and there is a timer that cuts you off.

Mr. Kennedy asked for a list of important issues the commissioners wish to be brought forward for legislators to hear. Commissioner Branch stated a discussion with legislators is going to be important with those who are not on the same page as the rest of the representatives here. Representative Kelley is spearheading the public health issues, and there are some serious concerns that should be discussed with him about local control.

Commissioner Branch asked Mr. Kennedy to look into the .09 dollars collected for distressed counties for a status.

### **Commissioners Briefing**

Commissioner Hover stated he spoke to Will Carpenter who lobbied at the Apple Maggot working group meeting to post pone the Okanogan County Apple Maggot quarantine area in order to provide more time to do more trapping.

### **Motion Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover moved that the consent agenda items be approved today instead of Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Consent Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-3 as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Ratify Board of County Commissioners Support Letter TV District #1 Efforts to Return To Service
2. Interlocal Agreement Building & Inspection Services -City of Tonasket
3. Interlocal Agreement Building & Inspection Services-City of Omak

Commissioner Branch discussed the fairgrounds recently being used for COVID-19 vaccination administration by North Valley and Mid Valley Hospitals. It was on a first come first served basis.

American Planning Association reached out to Commissioner Branch to create on their website information for planning commissions. He reviews what they have going on, but he did ask about frequently asked questions. Partially planning under GMA is hardly used anywhere and it might be a question there. They forget what some rural counties do not plan for.

Motion Adjourn Till 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn until 2:00 p.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

The board adjourned at 2:00 p.m.