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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

8 **9:00 AM** Review Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023
9 **9:05 AM** Briefing Among Commissioners – Discuss Weekly Meetings & Schedule
10 **9:15 AM** Public Comment Period
11 **9:30 AM** Legislative Update – Zak Kennedy
12 **10:00 AM** Commissioner’s Staff Meeting
13 **10:30 AM** Public Hearing – Budget Sup Appropriation – Vehicle Reserve – Assessor
14 **10:35 AM** Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Sheriff
15 **11:00 AM** Discussion – \$6 Million Tribal Allocation – Commissioner Branch
16 **11:30 AM** Follow-up Discussion Clerk Records-Superior Court Clerk Susan Speiker
17 **1:30 AM** Discussion – Code Review – Esther Milner
18 **1:35 PM** Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)
19 **1:45 PM** Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on February 27, 2023 with; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Deputy Clerk of the Board, Crystal Hawley, present.

AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch attended via zoom.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Briefing Among Commissioners – Discuss Weekly Meetings & Schedule

The commissioners briefed among themselves and discussed their weekly meetings and schedules. The commissioners would like to add a discussion on ARPA funding after the Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation with the sheriff.

Public Comment Period

Emily Sisson, member of the public, did not have comment. Isabelle Spohn, member of the public, stated that there is a lot of tree branches down and commented her concerns of fire danger. Ms. Spohn also would like to know when the commissioners were going to follow-up with the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The commissioners would like to follow-up with the County Engineer, Josh Thomson tomorrow when he meets with them at 11:00 for his update regarding Ms. Spohn’s concerns.

Legislative Update – Zak Kennedy

Zak Kennedy updated the board on the legislative update. They had made it past the first two cutoffs (policy and fiscal) which means the bill list is significantly smaller than it was just a few days ago. They are now on to the house of origin cutoff which comes on Wednesday the 8th.

Below are a few bills up for hearing this week

SSB 5005 - concerning real property.

53 1. Hearing 3/2
54 2. Bar Association Bill
55
56 HB 1756 - supporting clean energy through tax changes that increase revenue to local governments,
57 schools, and impacted communities.
58 1. Hearing 3/3 - executive session
59 2. WSAC - pro
60
61 Discussing strategies on SB 5440 and HB 1670:
62
63 SB 5440 ("Trueblood bill") DSHS is currently the driving force behind it. There are concerns that we
64 won't know exactly what the legislature is doing until towards the end of this year's legislative session,
65 so we need to be prepared - maybe a solution is to push for separate facilities?
66
67 HB 1670 (1% property tax) has been relatively quiet. It is currently in Rules. WSAC supports this bill
68 and is planning on setting up meetings during LSC to work on supporting it in the legislature. There are
69 talks about a compromise being limiting the title with an amendment on the floor.
70
71 The following firearms bills are still alive:
72
73 SB 5078 – Protecting public safety by establishing duties of firearm industry members. (H-
74 Hackney, S- Pedersen) Rules 2nd reading
75 "Relating to protecting public safety by establishing duties of firearm industry members engaged
76 in the sale, manufacturing, distribution, importing, or marketing of firearms, ammunition,
77 component parts, or accessories, to adopt and implement reasonable controls to prevent the
78 diversion of firearms and related products to straw purchasers, firearm traffickers, unauthorized
79 individuals, and individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others, to prohibit
80 such firearm industry members from creating or maintaining a public nuisance, providing for
81 investigation and enforcement by the attorney general, and creating a private right of action"
82 HB 1143 – Concerning requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms. (Berry) Rules 2nd Review
83 "Relating to enhancing requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms by requiring a
84 permit to purchase firearms, firearms safety training, and a 10-day waiting period,
85 prohibiting firearms transfers prior to completion of a background check, and updating and
86 creating consistency in firearms transfer and background check procedures"
87 SB 5006 – Clarifying waiver of firearm rights. (Pedersen) Passed Senate & is House Civil Rights &
88 Judiciary committee (no hearing scheduled)
89 • Creates a new civil infraction for persons who have in their possession or have under their
90 control a firearm after filing a voluntary waiver of firearm rights.
91 • Permits voluntary waiver of firearm rights to be submitted either in writing or electronically and
92 requires the clerk of the court to immediately notify a filer and contact persons when a voluntary
93 waiver of firearm rights has been accepted.
94 • Allows a filer to update contact person information by making an electronic or written request
95 to the clerk of the court.
96 • Encourages mental health professionals and substance use disorder professionals to discuss
97 with their patients the voluntary waiver of firearm rights.

98 2SHB 1445 - concerning law enforcement and local corrections agency misconduct through
99 investigations and legal actions (Hansen, Simmons) Rules 2nd Review

100 • Creates a new civil infraction for persons who have in their possession or have under their
101 control a firearm after filing a voluntary waiver of firearm rights.

102 • Permits voluntary waiver of firearm rights to be submitted either in writing or electronically and
103 requires the clerk of the court to immediately notify a filer and contact persons when a voluntary
104 waiver of firearm rights has been accepted.

105 • Allows a filer to update contact person information by making an electronic or written request
106 to the clerk of the court.

107 • Encourages mental health professionals and substance use disorder professionals to
108 discuss with their patients the voluntary waiver of firearm rights.

109 **Fairgrounds Policy**

110 Commissioner Hover explained that the fair advisory meeting discussed some changes to their policy.
111 He changed the meeting dates and requirements to reflect the RCW and would like either Naomie or
112 Lanie to writeup a resolution for the changes.

113
114 Commissioners Branch asked if the Fair Advisory Board had seen the changes before their vote.
115 Commissioner Hover explained that they haven't, but it was pretty straight forward and per RCW
116 requirements. Commissioner Branch was concerned that there were voting on something that they
117 haven't seen and not having training on the rules. Commissioner Hover explained that they are just
118 wanting the minimum requirements of posting 24-hour notice for their meetings.

119 **Commissioner's Staff Meeting**

120 Planning Director, Pete Palmer, Fairgrounds Manager, Naomie Peasley, Emergency Management,
121 Maurice Goodall was present.

122
123 Fairgrounds
124 Fairgrounds Manager, Naomie Peasley, explained that her guys have been cleaning out the
125 fairground's bone yard. The fairgrounds have a lot of extra metal and she would like to surplus it all.
126 Ms. Peasley forward an emailed WSU MOU and contract proposal to the commissioners and explained
127 it was above her pay grade.

128
129 Construction contractor, Lone Star Barns, reached out to Ms. Peasley; they would like the status of the
130 possible purchase of new race horse barns. Commissioner Hover said that we might think about putting
131 out an RFQ to demo both the Fairgrounds horse barns.

132
133 Ms. Peasley asked the commissioners if they would like to move forward on the purchase of the rabbit
134 cages. After discussion, the commissioners would like to hold off to see what funding they can come
135 up with.

136
137 Lastly, Ms. Peasley reported that Washington State high school association has a rodeo coming up in
138 May.

139
140 Planning
141 Planning Director, Pete Palmer explained that she didn't have anything pressing to update the
142 commissioners on, but did want them to know that she has been getting a lot of public record requests
143 from the Farm Bureau regarding the Tunk rezone proposal.

144

145
146 Emergency Management
147 Emergency Management, Maurice Goodall, had nothing to report to the commissioners. Mr. Goodall
148 emailed the commissioners regarding a special needs' registry for emergency assistance. The
149 commissioners would like to have it available on Emergency Management website page.

150
151 **Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Vehicle Reserve – Assessor**
152 Commissioner Branch opened to public hearing to staff. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public
153 comment for or against the consideration of a budget supplemental appropriation. The County
154 Assessor, Larry Gilman explained the funds budget supplemental appropriation is within the Vehicle
155 Reserve fund 197 and Current Expense Assessors fund in the amount of \$41,200. The budget needs
156 to be re-allocated to cover the costs for the approved Assessor's vehicle purchase. Commissioner
157 Branch closed the public hearing to staff and opened to the public comment. There was no public
158 comment.

159
160 **Motion- Vehicle Reserve fund 197**
161 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 30-2023. A resolution authorizing a budget
162 supplemental appropriation within the Vehicle Reserve fund 197 and Current Expense Assessors fund
163 in the amount of \$41,200. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

164
165 **Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Sheriff**
166 Commissioner Branch opened to public hearing to staff. There was no staff for comments.
167 Commissioner Hover read over the resolution. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment
168 for or against the consideration of a budget supplemental appropriation. The funds are from the NW3C
169 Federal Grant and will be appropriated to Small Tools/Minor Equipment in the amount of \$35,034.
170 Commissioner Branch opened to the public for comment. There were no comments from the public.

171
172 **Motion**
173 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 31-2023. A resolution authorizing a budget
174 supplemental appropriation within the current expense sheriff's budget in the amount of \$35,034 Motion
175 was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

176
177 **ARPA Funding**
178 Commissioner Hover explained that the county was allocated 8.2 million dollars for ARPA Funding.
179 There is still have 1.1 million left after allocating to the following projects:

- 180
- 181 • The Justice Building
 - 182 • Public Health
 - 183 • Food and Nutrition
 - 184 • Public Works
 - 185 • Rental Strategies
 - 186 • City of Okanogan water source
 - 187 • Mazama Hydrant Project Twisp
 - 188 • Methow Bridge
 - 189 • Municipal Well
 - 190 • Tunk MT Fire
 - 191 • Courthouse Security
 - 192 • Mobile Dispatch
 - 193 • Rebuild Morgue and Storage
 - 194 • Retention Pay

- 195 • Food Crisis
- 196 • Long Term Recovery

197

198 **Discussion – \$6 Million Opioid Abatement – Commissioner Branch**

199 Commissioner Branch explained that RiverCare Diversion would provide preventative outreach
200 and programming, law enforcement co-responder street-level assessments; an inpatient facility;
201 satellite outpatient facilities; recovery navigator services, as well as, food security, housing and
202 job-training services. The goal is to create a holistic approach to combating behavioral health
203 ailments of which so many citizens in North Central Washington suffer.

204

205 A feasibility study would allow stakeholders to adequately answer the question of where in the
206 region is the best location to site the new RiverCare Diversion facility and the existing Center for
207 Alcohol & Drug Treatment facility. To locate the two facilities on the same campus would better
208 streamline services related to substance use disorder recovery and mental health treatment.

209

210 **Follow-up Discussion Clerk Records-Superior Court Clerk Susan Speiker**

211 Superior Court Clerk, Susan Speiker, wanted to follow-up with the commissioners on her request to
212 purchase 15 index books.

213

214 **Motion- Purchase of 15 Index Books**

215 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Superior Court Clerk’s project to scan 15 index books
216 electrically and pay invoice from the Archival Preservation funds under 001.005. Motion was seconded.
217 All were in favor. Motion was carried.

218

219 **Discussion – Code Review – Esther Milner**

220 Ms. Milner explained that before discussing the Code Reviews two separate executive sessions with
221 Planning and Risk Management was needed.

222

223 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)**

224 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 1:30 p.m. inviting Pete Palmer and Rocky
225 Robbins, and Esther Milner until 1:45 p.m. under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel,
226 matters relating to agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency may be or become a party.
227 Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

228

229 Executive session was extended at 1:45 p.m. for another 15 minutes.

230 Executive session ended at 1:59 p.m. no decisions were made.

231

232 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)**

233 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 2:00 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. under RCW
234 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel, matters relating to agency litigation or potential litigation
235 to which the agency may be or become a party inviting Esther Milner and Shelley Keitzman. Motion
236 was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

237

238 After executive session Esther Milner discussed the various changes.

239

240 Ms. Milner explained the duties of the Clerk of the Board were not codified in detail. The group
241 discussed the drafted ordinances they reviewed. She suggested the Clerk of the Board be in its own
242 chapter.

243

244 Commissioners discussed the meaning used for the words “repeal” and “rescind”. Be consistent
245 however the word is used, stated Commissioner Hover.
246
247 Commissioners discussed setting each office hours by resolution because the resolution can change
248 more easily when office hours change. Ms. Milner explained good language for the changes needed.
249 Ms. Milner stated the commissioners set the hours for the business of the county but she will research
250 the specific statutes.
251
252 Ms. Milner asked how the county can pull all its policies into one place for employees. Commissioner
253 Branch would like to see them all in one place for employees to access. She thought a place to drop
254 the policies for sorting out later would be a good place to start.
255
256 Commissioners discussed the Hearing Examiner and Board of Adjustment. Alternative to Board of
257 Adjustment is the Hearing Examiner. The group reviewed the various pieces of statute and code
258 regarding the Board of Adjustment and Hearing Examiner roles to sort through how they are tied
259 together and what altered what.
260
261 Law and Justice Plan was completed and the council created for the purpose. The requirement was
262 removed in 2008 by legislative. There is no requirement for the council to do anything and is an optional
263 tool. Commissioners were fine with the amendment.
264
265 Commissioners discussed scheduling of the public hearing for the ordinance/code changes and thought
266 10-minutes would be sufficient and if more time is needed due to comments or interest then the board
267 may continue the hearing to another known date and time.
268
269 Commissioner Hover asked the Clerk of the Board to draft a resolution that would adopt the revised
270 Fair Policies and Procedures.
271
272 The board adjourned at 3 p.m.