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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JANUARY 18, 2022

9:00 AM	Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting-Leah McCormack
11:00 AM	Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
1:30 PM	Public Comment Period
2:00 PM	Update-Building
2:30 PM	Update-Noxious Weed-Larry Hudson
3:00 PM	Discussion- Johnson Controls-Offerings-Humphry Woke
3:30 PM	Discussion-Okanogan PUD-Broadband Projects & County ARPA Funds-EA
4:30 PM	Approve Commissioner Proceedings- January 10-11, 2022
4:45 PM	Approve Consent Agenda

18 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North,
19 Okanogan, Washington on January 18, 2022 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-
20 Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the
21 Board, Laleña Johns, present.

22
23 AV Capture provided audio and video of the meeting held today, while ZOOM provided best
24 audio accessibility and public interaction.

25
26 Commissioner Hover called and was about 30 minutes late this morning. Commissioners quorum
27 was reached at 9:38 a.m. Commissioner DeTro joined the meeting via zoom at around 10:45 a.m.

28
29 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

30 Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall stated the county adopted the 2% gwi after the EM budget
31 was already set and cities were provided that original budget. It did not include the wage increase.
32 He usually sends a letter at tax time if there are any adjustments.

33
34 Commissioner Hover asked how his raise was addressed last time. It is in the contract with the
35 cities that he receives the same increase as non-bargaining employees. Commissioner Hover
36 said if we need to redo the contract to say it doesn't follow anything except the board's
37 recommendation, and cities were not consulted beforehand and now they have to adjust. It does
38 need to be addressed. The Emergency Management Council would need to decide raises, said
39 Commissioner Hover. He wants to make sure the cities agree.

40
41 Emergency Management commented on a person taking photos of the courthouse complex
42 because it was their right to do so. Many courthouse employees were concerned about it. Mr.
43 Goodall asked what the procedures and protocol is for these types of situations. He recommended
44 camera systems to ensure safety? If there are cameras in different places you can see what the
45 person is doing.

46
47 **Finance Committee Meeting-Leah McCormack**

48 Treasurer Leah McCormack, Auditor Cari Hall, Finance Manager Lisa Schreckengost

49
50 Treasurer McCormack provided her agenda and discussed the financial information there.
51 (attached)

52

53 Treasurer McCormack presented the Annual Compliance letter. The Acknowledgement of
54 Refunds issued due to Assessor corrections or manifest errors. Most of the refunds have to do
55 with 2021.

56

57 Treasurer McCormack discussed the investments and interest rates. The state pool is less than
58 what we are getting. The county's current expense cash on hand report was discussed. The levy
59 shift was used to balance the budget because projections were more around \$2 million not the
60 actual \$4.6 million. It is very difficult to predict what each county department's ending fund balance
61 will be. We've never had this much money, said Treasurer McCormack. We have seen an
62 increase in sales tax every single month in 2021. Commissioner Hover asked that the funds be
63 moved to current expense reserve. Supplemental resolution now and then in June do the transfer.
64 He would like the \$100,000 moved to Contingency Reserve, \$600,000 to pay for the system and
65 the rest put into Current Expense Reserve. Commissioner Hover prefers to not do levy shifts.

66
67 Auditor Hall stated projections will be done through out the year to help with the accuracy of the
68 end number.

69
70 The federal and state dollars received for Public Works projects, so to get the projects on roads
71 are being impacted so it is good to have him in the room when the group discusses those.

72
73 There are certain departments that did not meet their revenue goals, and Auditor Hall
74 recommended the commissioners review the report. Commissioner Branch stated the
75 Fairgrounds is one to watch and those details are something to look at. By booking the
76 fairgrounds, it makes the board more aware of which ones need what. Things turn into priority.

77
78 Foster Garvey is wondering if the commissioners are going to be ready to approve a bond
79 resolution. There were five questions Treasurer McCormack received and those need to be
80 addressed. \$15 million was a number discussed.

81
82 The Justice Center and county building strategies were discussed and use of ARPA funds for
83 these upgrades. Commissioner Branch would like others to review the rules to ensure
84 interpretations are consistent. Commissioner Branch stated the deadline to report on the ARPA
85 funds was extended again from January 31, 2022 to April 30, 2022? It is a moving target.

86
87 Arnie Marchand joined the meeting at about 10:50 a.m.

88
89 **Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
90 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

91
92 *Maintenance and road conditions*
93 Area 3 Methow Frost Road is done and Elbow Coulee passable, but still working on it to widen.
94 Found quite a few slides in new places but maybe those seemed due to wind.

95
96 Most of the focus is widening and dealing with ice. There are three trucks down with fairly major
97 issues, the older Kenworth ones. We are working on replacing the Kenworth trucks, but not these
98 ones yet. Commissioner Hover asked if the M&O time be shortened up, it is 20 years right now
99 but reality is more like 20-25? Resale values should be considered while the machine is still in
100 working condition instead of completely gone. Engineer Thomson said it makes sense from a
101 financial point as well as from a repair point of view. It is a good use of tax payer money to
102 consider.

103

104 Just received the 2021 trucks that were ordered in 2020.

105

106 *Aeneas Valley Rd @ Round Lake*

107 Engineer Thomson met with Rose Isler about the road. He now understands what is going on
108 now. We do not have the all the accident reports because they are not getting reported. He
109 explained what he thinks is happening and where and that he plans to install signs as they have
110 made a big difference in other areas. He will also ask DOT to add it to our current program.

111

112 *Speed limit and striping safety study*

113 Engineer Thomson said Public Works is about finished with the speed limit and striping study.
114 There are many short roads that have 50 mph that you cannot actually get up to 50 mph speed.
115 Will address those in the near future. There are also many roads in small communities that have
116 speed limit signs but no ordinance to back them up. Catching up with those in a second ordinance.

117

118 The goal was to create a matrix of the roads that have speed limits and criteria to look at. He was
119 also looking at other guidance on what works best. Would like to implement this year.

120

121 *Plowing WDFW Bonaparte Lake winter access*

122 The county used to plow only to lake but now plow up further. WFW asked if an agreement could
123 be approved for the county to plow the parking lot could be fit into the county's maintenance
124 schedule. Engineer Thomson asked if the board had any concerns about adding it, the board had
125 no concern since the county gets paid to do it.

126

127 *Munis system*

128 Engineer Thomson will attend the Munis demonstration tomorrow.

129

130 *Consent Agenda*

131 *Hunter Mtn WDFW letter of intent*

132 Still moving ahead with this and have funding for Hunter Mt. This should be done by early
133 summer. Letter of intent was reviewed by David Gecas.

134

135 Commissioners adjourned for lunch until 1:30 p.m.

136

137 **Public Comment Period**

138 Isabell Spohn asked about an email sent to about 40+ people asking them to prioritize three items
139 of the 40 issues. She would like to look at a map that gives some direction on zoning code, but
140 she was unsuccessful. Commissioner Hover said he will show her on the planning site. It is

141

142 **Update-Building**

143 Building Official Dan Higbee provided the Building Department update showing 4th quarter trends.
144 (attached) He discussed the numbers with the board.

145

146 Mr. Higbee explained which counties have a renewed interlocal agreement for building inspection
147 services. The City of Tonasket did not renew. The busiest town for building is Brewster and
148 Winthrop. Civic center and town hall building are continuing to be built.

149

150 Mr. Higbee stated Randy Taylor retired, and Cass Robin was trained up to take on those
151 responsibilities. There will be some wiggle room in his budget as a result. Two other retirements
152 are expected in 2023.

153

154 Commissioner Branch asked that an executive session be done today to discuss the complaint.

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Update-Noxious Weed-Larry Hudson

The Spring recertification class is set on March 3 at 9-4 at the Omak theatre for the applicators from. Mr. Hudson explained how he lets the public know about the class.

Regarding the Lake Management District, Dept. of Ecology said do not treat ¼ south of the border. He is working on getting approval early in the spring, but if it isn't approved we will need to address that quarter mile since it won't be able to be treated. DOE notice of violation, treatment wise, and worked with them last summer and they are very happy with our response and the situation now.

Commissioner Branch asked about the water quality forum in Osoyoos that are in planning stages right now, he will provide the contact info once it is set.

Mr. Hudson said he planned to treat the Eastside of lake Osoyoos, but plants were already dying for some reason. There was treatment a Veranda Beach and was the only spot treated at that time. The plan is to take excess and treat the entire lake including the river system down by the dam.

Several grant awards were funded this year, a budget supplement will be needed for around \$216,000. Palmer Mt fire area treatment, \$55,000 OCD to treat in other wildfire areas with a possible additional grant. \$70,000 treatments on the reservation, \$32,000 title II for Tonasket Ranger District treatments as well as various smaller grants.

Larry Hudson stated he is certified to do the Weed Free certifications and looking to get his lead staff also certified. Training staff because most are new in the office, and he is hopeful another lead tech will be trained up, and 2-4 years down the road up to the assistant manager position. Right now the department is fully staffed. Hopeful temporary summer help won't be an issue this year.

There have been issues with vandalism at the building with two truck fuel tanks drilled for the fuel at a cost of around \$2,000 a piece to replace. The vehicles are now parked in a secure lot in another part of town. The department's maintenance budget will be greatly impacted and a budget supplemental may be needed later. Lost area 4 board member, and looking for someone to fill the position. Must live in the area represented and must be in agriculture.

Herbicides are going to be hard to get die to supply chain issues, so he has become aware that landowners may have difficulty obtaining the chemicals.

Meeting in February to start the coordinated weed meetings again.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Commissioner DeTro moved to go into executive session at 2:48 p.m. for 10 minutes inviting Tanya Everett to discuss the performance of a public employee

Discussion- Johnson Controls-Offerings-Humphry Woke

Mr. Woke from Johnson Controls provided a presentation of what they have to offer. Johnson Controls provides procurement methods and financing mechanisms for projects. They do work with DES to look at challenges then design structure to show how county can stay modern. In terms of financing they can provide funding over a 20- or 30-year period and takes on all the risk. This is a very similar situation as the county Energy Project through Ameresco. Mr. Woke discussed a project for Clark County.

206 **Discussion-Okanogan PUD-Broadband Projects & County ARPA Funds**
207 Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Janet Crossland, CFO; Steve Taylor GM, John McDonald network
208 manager

209
210 Ron Gadberg PUD, John McDonald network manager. Trying to go after ARPA money to get
211 broad band project going in the county. The next step is to move further out and get fiber to the
212 home. In the past PUD applied for grants, but have not been chosen. Rural doesn't mean rural
213 when it comes to the grants. We could not serve enough people. They want rural but everything
214 is cost per passing, but that is what it costs. The latest round they worked with the BAT and
215 prioritized, and came up with areas in the county to break out and a cost for passing. A map
216 showed where the areas were spelled out. City of Twisp, Malott, Crumbacher and North Omak,
217 but there was an overlap concern of Spectrum's in the North Omak area even though people who
218 want to pay for service cannot. It is not clear who enforces that area. It is up to the grant provider,
219 said Mr. McDonald.

220
221 Commissioner Hover asked why another company would not want a redundant system in their
222 area if they can purchase the whole sale from the PUD. Mr. McDonald said they want to own it
223 and have a monopoly. PUD has invited them to open discussions about the plan and they will not
224 provide theirs.

225
226 Ms. Holder Diefenbach explained how grant applications get thrown out. Cost to provide fiber into
227 an area will need to be purchased and who will be able to afford it. All these things are reviewed
228 beforehand.

229
230 Is it the PUD expectation that the county participates in the strategic plan, asked Commissioner
231 Branch to make sure distribution of the funds are appropriate?

232
233 Roni discussed lobbyists involved and what they are trying to draw attention. Change the
234 definition or we will never see funding. PUD said their last application was very good and the only
235 thing that went to the East side of the state was to the tribe. Internet Acceleration Grant will be do
236 another round of applications. Add the Omak Flats, Conconully and stay away from areas easily
237 contested. Meeting with Broadband office next week on the second application that got rejected
238 to find out what they are looking for. Commissioner Hover stated there is a big difference between
239 rural King County and rural Okanogan County.

240
241 Commissioner Branch discussed tracking mechanism would be connected to COVID and it
242 played a role in the situation. Quantify it without getting involved in personal lives. The more he
243 reads the guidance those are areas we can feel confident spending the money on.

244
245 The USDA Reconnect Grant is three months after application and will hear around April 10. The
246 group discussed use of county ARPA funds as match money for the grants.

247
248 Commissioner Branch asked about the PUD lobbyists and whether the county's lobbyist and PUD
249 lobbyist should tackle this in session. Commissioner Branch showed the general allocation tool.

250
251 Roni asked if the county would require a contract in place with the entity. Commissioner Hover
252 stated his preference is reimbursement

253
254 **Motion Acknowledgment of Receipt**
255 Commissioner Branch moved to acknowledge receipt of a list of refunds from the County
256 Treasurer per RCW 84.69.020. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. (attached)

257
258 **Motion Resolution 5-2022 Budget Amendment Capital Improvement Fund**
259 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 5-2022 a budget amendment regarding fund
260 134 the Capital Improvement fun in the amount of \$150,000. Motion was seconded, all were in
261 favor, motion carried.

262
263 **Motion Resolution 6-2022 Ad Valorem Taxes for 2022**
264 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 6-2022 authorizing the Ad Valorem taxes for
265 2022. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

266
267 **Motion 20-Year Facility Master Plan**
268 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Agreement between Beaman Architecture Ltd and
269 Okanogan County for the development of the county's 20-year Facility Master Plan and
270 authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

271
272 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
273 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
274 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
275 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
276 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$144,957.53 and Payroll vouchers in the amount
277 of \$985,861.95. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded
278 and carried.

279
280 **Motion Public Health Voucher**
281 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including payroll vouchers in
282 the amount of \$48,899.89. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion
283 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

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285 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings- January 10-11, 2022**
286 Commissioners were not ready to approve the meeting minutes.

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304 **Approve Consent Agenda**
305 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-11. Motion was seconded,
306 all were in favor, motion carried. Commissioner Branch moved to amend his motion to exclude

307 items 7, 8, & 9 so the Clerk of the Board can ensure scopes of work are appropriate for the LTAC
308 applicants. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

309

310 **1. Letter of Support-2022 Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grant-Town of Twisp**

311 **2. Letter of Intent-Hunter Mountain Property Sale-WDFW**

312 **3. Interlocal Agreement-Town of Riverside-Building Inspection Services**

313 **4. CDBG Public Service Grant Request #6-December-#21-62210-011**

314 **5. CDBG Public Service Grant Request#12-December-#21-6221C-119**

315 **6. LTAC Agreement #22-005-Merc Playhouse-\$6,500**

316 **7. LTAC Agreement #22-008-Methow Trails(Cap Imp)-\$160,000**

317 **8. LTAC Agreement #22-009-Methow Valley Sport Trails-\$48,000**

318 **9. LTAC Agreement #22-003 Confluence Art-\$5000**

319 **10. CDBG CV1 Grant Amendment B**

320 **11. Union Agreement Courthouse Employees Teamsters Local No 760**

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322

323 The board adjourned at p.m.

324