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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JANUARY 23, 2023

8 9:00 AM Review Agenda & Consent Agenda
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 To Follow Commissioners Staff Meeting
13 10:30 AM Discussion – Code Update – Esther Milner

15 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue
16 North, Okanogan, Washington on January 23, 2023 with; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy
17 Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

18
19 Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch attended via zoom.

20
21 AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

22
23 **Review Agenda & Consent Agenda**

24 Commissioner Branch reviewed the agenda and consent agenda. Commissioner Branch
25 discussed the EMS Council that he is on. Commissioner Hover asked to move the consent
26 agenda and meeting minutes to an earlier timeslot on Tuesday. Commissioners discussed adding
27 an Executive Session under (i) at 10:00 a.m. on today.

28
29 **Briefing Among Commissioners – Discuss Weekly Meetings & Schedule**

30 Commissioners discussed the Opioid Abatement funds and what steps are needed to understand
31 the process of disbursing the funds and who is to receive them. Commissioner Branch discussed
32 Beacon Health being our BHO and the council that decides is not in place. Leah Beknow, a
33 representative of Beacon, was willing to discuss the situation with Okanogan County.
34 Commissioner Hover stated he would like the agencies who will use the money to be involved in
35 the conversation. Commissioner Branch suggested a meeting to talk with those agencies about
36 the council make up. He suggested, for the council makeup, one county commissioner from each
37 county involved, to discuss. There are 97 opioid clients waiting to be served.

38
39 Commissioner Hover suggested use of the county's Alcohol Drug Abuse fund to pass the funds
40 through to OBHC as the contractor handling these types of clients in Okanogan County. It would
41 make it simple. Commissioner Branch stated much of the money comes through the BHO to
42 providers. He is buried in these issues and he is a member of the regional EMS council, but felt
43 Commissioner Neal might become more involved and connected by attending. Commissioner
44 Neal said he would be interested.

45
46 **Public Comment Period**

47 Members of the public, Emily Sisson and Laura Schrage, did not have comment were only
48 listening.

49
50 **Legislative Update – Zak Kennedy**

51 Commissioners discussed the list of bills provided by Zac Kennedy. Commissioner Hover
52 discussed HB 1215. He wondered why the legislature wouldn't appropriate money through the

53 Salmon Recovery Funding Board for riparian buffer zone projects. Mr. Kennedy said what it
54 comes down to is new legislators are not used to communicating in person. They would like to
55 see actual science basis and from the county perspective how does it interface with the
56 stewardship program. There are many questions right now with the bill and those questions need
57 to be worked out and it appears they are willing to do so. Commissioner Hover asked if he could
58 meet with the legislators involved. Mr. Kennedy listed the names of legislators he would be
59 meeting with over a two-day period.

60
61 Mr. Kennedy stated, in Olympia, the building security is making it very difficult to visit legislators
62 there. He said one must make an appointment ahead of time.

63
64 **Commissioners Staff Meeting**
65 Naomie Peasley, Pete Palmer

66
67 Naomie Peasley provided a grant application to commissioners to fill out for the Peri mutual funds
68 due February 15, 2023. No action was needed. She provided general expense claims for the fair
69 queen and her own travel claim because she is using her personal vehicle to do county business.

70
71 Ms. Peasley asked about departmental vehicles to be surplussed that could be transferred to the
72 fairgrounds as the previously purchased vehicles have all broken down. Commissioner Hover
73 said the Assessor has a vehicle that could be transferred to the fairgrounds. Commissioner Hover
74 asked if that would be appropriate. Commissioner Branch was agreeable but said it was up to
75 Commissioner Hover. We would no longer need to approve mileage claims for use of personal
76 vehicles if the fairgrounds had a reliable vehicle to use instead. Ms. Peasley said fairgrounds
77 maintenance also needs a truck for towing trailer and getting parts. The Building Department has
78 a vehicle that was previously surplussed. The Clerk of the Board will publish a public hearing
79 notice and draft a resolution for the transfers once the vehicle information is provided to her.

80
81 Commissioners want to hold a public surplus auction in 2023. Commissioner Hover asked for
82 open dates in June on a Saturday when the weather is good. Ms. Peasley will follow up with dates.

83
84 Ms. Peasley explained the work happening to the Agriplex Annex floors, the demo of the RV
85 bathrooms and the hope that these projects will be completed by the time the RV park opens in
86 spring. Commissioner Hover stated the damage to the fairgrounds might be covered by county
87 insurance, but an engineer estimate is needed.

88
89 Director Palmer provided her planning department update. She said the Planning Commission
90 members John Crandall and George Thornton have appointments terminating at the end of
91 February. Commissioner Hover said he likes to advertise when positions open up, because it
92 gives others a chance at public involvement. He would like to ask for volunteers for the position.
93 A resolution was suggested to lay out a policy and process for appointing positions that says
94 members can only serve two terms. Commissioner Branch agreed to put it out there to provide
95 opportunity to those interested in planning. Commissioner Hover said he will put something
96 together. Historically the Clerk of the Board puts the ad together and publishes the notice and
97 drafts the appointment letters.

98
99 NoteDirector Palmer said she would like to advertise the two open Planner positions.
100 Commissioners were alright with that. She said the planning department secretary position will
101 also be published.

102

103 Sub area A funding was discussed to help hire a consultant to re write plan. The group is asking
104 specifically for the county to fund the effort. Our Comp plan hasn't yet made it through the legal
105 challenge and Commissioner Hover would like to wait until after that is resolved. Commissioner
106 Branch said code updates regarding cannabis, and annual fees, and there is a number of issues
107 that folks get away with. He said a bill would raise the contribution to the counties. He would like
108 to tie the income from cannabis towards planning to offset costs of administering.

109
110 Director Palmer presented a lease agreement for postage machine and a Noxious Weed V-Cert
111 for Lake Management District.

112
113 Emergency Management Maurice Goodall provided a quote for the emergency management
114 system through a grant.

115
116 **Motion Everbridge Agreement Renewal**
117 Commissioner Hover moved to approve and authorize the vice-chairman to sign the Everbridge
118 agreement in the amount of \$20,779.34 for one-year subscription. Motion was seconded, all were
119 in favor, motion carried.

120
121 Emergency Management Maurice Goodall will meet with the Eastern side of the state on floods
122 this week. Met with HAM radio people last week and that went well.

123
124 Emergency Management Maurice Goodall Met with Community Action Council on food crisis.
125 Starting to look at mercy support functions and that discussion will start soon.

126
127 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**
128 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:33 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. inviting
129 Esther Milner to discuss RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
130 carried.

131
132 Executive session ended. No decisions were made.

133
134 **Discussion – Code Update – Esther Milner**
135 Chief Civil Deputy Esther Milner has drafted ordinances for Okanogan County Code sections 1.08
136 and 1.10, 1.24, 1.28, 2.08.

137
138 Went through chapter 1, but there are some things hanging out there such as custodial care
139 standards but needed a chance to review to make sure internal process were up to par. She has
140 sample language stating the jail will cover the obligation. Commissioner Hover suggested printing
141 a copy of the section for the Sheriff to review. Statutes have seen a few revisions since adopted.

142
143 Ms. Milner talked about the general penalties being changed to a civil infraction. She talked about
144 other sections that are no longer relevant. The nuclear free zone will be left alone, but maybe
145 clarify exceptions such as for medical or for things it doesn't apply to. Commissioner Branch said
146 leave it at this point, but it is vague in terms of storing waste.

147
148 The definitions and general provisions still need changes and recommend looking at it in the end.
149 Commissioner Branch suggested language for provisions required by RCW be stated so people
150 know to go look there for compliance when legislators make changes.

151
152 Commissioner Hover read through OCC 2.04 as legislators are working on changes.

153

154 Risk Management policy set in 2013 changed that claims be submitted to the risk manager not
155 the clerk of the board as it states in county code.
156
157 Commissioners discussed items to remove that would be better in policy rather than county code.
158 Discussed RCW 36.16.100 that addresses how we set the county office hours. Commissioner
159 Hover stated he thought commissioners should authorize an office to close during the workweek.
160
161 Ms. Milner stated HR Risk Manager Shelley Keitzman told her she planned to update the county's
162 personal manual. Ms. Milner said she would provide the items in code that should be in the
163 personal manual for incorporation.
164
165 Commissioners discussed the boards, committees and districts established by the county
166 commissioners. The group will do some more research on cemeteries and districts.
167
168 Community Action Council section was discussed. Each commissioner has the option to appoint
169 someone. Commissioner Branch will discuss with OCCAC Executive Director Rena Shawver.
170
171 Commissioners discussed OCC 2.80 put into place with ordinance 93-4. Ms. Milner said there
172 have been updates to the RCW in 2007 that have not been incorporated into county code.
173
174 Ms. Milner need direction on some areas she is working on. She would also like to discuss public
175 records code in executive session.
176
177 The board adjourned at 2:05 p.m.
178