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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**JANUARY 3, 2023**

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8     **9:00 AM**         **Organize the Board & Go Over Commissioner Assignments – Commissioners**  
9     **To Follow**        **Review Consent Agenda & Meeting Minutes – December 27, 2022**  
10    **9:15 AM**         **Public Comment Period**  
11    **9:30 AM**         **Update – Superior Court Clerk – Susan Speiker**  
12    **10:00 AM**        **Discussion – Community Action ARPA Request – Rena Shawver**  
13    **10:45 AM**        **Commissioners to set Wednesday’s Agenda**  
14    **10:50 AM**        **Approve Commissioner Proceedings December 27, 2022**  
15    **10:55 AM**        **Approve Consent Agenda**  
16    **11:00 AM**        **Update – Public Works – Josh Thomson**

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18    The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
19    North, Okanogan, Washington on January 3, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch;  
20    Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of  
21    the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

22  
23    AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction. Commissioner  
24    Branch attended via zoom.

25  
26    **Organize the Board & Go Over Commissioner Assignments – Commissioners**

27    The Clerk of the Board opened up the meeting stating this time was for the board to  
28    reorganize for 2023 by choosing the chair and vice-chair. She called for nominations.

29  
30    **Motion Nominations-BOCC Chairman**

31    Commissioner Neal moved to nominate Andy Hover as chairman. Instead, Commissioner  
32    Branch discussed a board rotation like Chelan County does for the chair position.  
33    Commissioner Hover then declined the nomination of Commissioner Neal. He stated it  
34    would be good to discuss what those responsibilities are. Motion was not seconded.  
35    Motion died.

36  
37    Commissioner Branch then moved to nominate himself as chair and said Commissioner  
38    Neal might want to first get a feel for what the county does before taking on the chairman  
39    position. Commissioner Branch explained his point. Commissioner Hover appreciated the  
40    nomination of Commissioner Neal, but other counties do have rotation, that he would like  
41    to consider. He asked to be nominated as Board of Public Health chairman at their next  
42    meeting. He is fine with Commissioner Branch being chairman for 2023. Commissioner  
43    Branch added that he understands the responsibility. Motion was seconded, all were in  
44    favor, Motion carried. Commissioner Branch is Chairman for 2023.

45  
46    **Motion Nominations-BOCC Vice Chairman**

47    Commissioner Branch entertained a motion to nominate Commissioner Hover as vice  
48    chairman. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

50 The commissioners discussed their Leadership Assignments. The list was reviewed and  
51 assignments adjusted. Additional work is needed to refine the assignments and define  
52 responsibilities.

53

#### 54 **Review Consent Agenda & Meeting Minutes – December 27, 2022**

55 Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

56

#### 57 **Public Comment Period**

58 PUD Commissioner, Jerry Asumussen, member of the public, was just observing. Ruth  
59 Hall, member of the public, commented on the New Year and welcomed Commissioner  
60 Neal to county government. She explained she is a county watch note taker and is a  
61 volunteer.

62

63 Pam Johnson Treasurer wanted, provided public comment and formally introduced  
64 herself as Okanogan County Treasurer and Beck Abrahamson as Chief Deputy  
65 Treasurer.

66

67 Commissioner Branch reminded the board that he was appointed by the governor to the  
68 state public health advisory board which consists of a quarterly meeting to discuss where  
69 we are after COVID and how public health rules work. It is important for the other two  
70 commissioners to know that especially when it comes to county input.

71

#### 72 **Update – Superior Court Clerk – Susan Speiker**

73 Superior Court Clerk, Susan Speiker, discussed her first issue was with courthouse  
74 security. She explained an event that cause concern with her and her staff.

75

76 As a result, Facility Maintenance is putting up privacy walls so no one can record the  
77 workers through the window. It won't cost anything but time since materials are on hand.  
78 She for a camera to be placed in the hall focused on clients at the window. There have  
79 been increased problems with clients acting inappropriately to staff at the window. She is  
80 concerned for herself and her staff's safety. She doesn't want to lose staff due to safety  
81 concerns.

82

83 Another issue is there is not a dedicated employee bathroom. She requested a bathroom  
84 stall be dedicated to employee use only like other departments have on second floor.

85

86 Clerk Speiker explained the climate has changed, now we go from 0-300. Commissioner  
87 Branch stated we need to be careful of what we talk about in open session. He suggested  
88 activation of the courthouse security and get to the bones of this as quickly as possible  
89 since the committee hasn't been active. Commissioner Hover stated he thought the  
90 committee would be made up of all the elected officials and one commissioner on the  
91 committee. Elected officials are automatically a representative. It is important for the Clerk  
92 to express her concerns early.

93

94 Commissioner Hover asked Clerk Speiker to speak to Central Services to see about  
95 installing the security camera into the system. Commissioner Branch wants to be  
96 involved.

97  
98 Clerk Speiker explained other implementations for reconfiguring the employee spaces  
99 such as putting in cubicles for those who want them, installation of wall partitions to  
100 separate window work from other work going on, strategically moving some desks, and  
101 adding a second register, adding usable windows with walls for a sense of privacy and  
102 will allow staff to work with more than one individual at a time. Commissioner Branch  
103 would like to be involved with the security plans.

104  
105 Clerk Speiker is also dealing with big issues due to Blake law and it generates a lot of  
106 work. Funds will be requested of the state to pay out as a result of the law. The process  
107 is in the planning process right now. There has been a lot of different ideas of how to do  
108 it.

109  
110 Commissioner Neal asked who would be monitoring the public camera. She wouldn't  
111 personally, but she wants the public to see in plain site that they are being surveilled.

112

113 **Discussion – Community Action ARPA Request – Rena Shawver**

114 Ms. Shawver arrived and thanked the board for the emergency food allocation from  
115 County ARPA funds due to Second Harvest which effects our nine food pantries. The  
116 state is trying to make up for the loss of food. The county originally allocated/contracted  
117 with OCCAC for \$200,000 to purchase food, but now she would like to use \$50,000 for  
118 rent for a food storage warehouse for two years. In the last few weeks, she has been  
119 getting emergency calls from people asking for help, but many have homes. The funds  
120 OCCAC has is for low income people or for those in certain income categories and some  
121 funds are not allowed to help those not eligible. None of OCCAC grants can be applied  
122 to ineligible folks. Ms. Shawver would like \$15,000 of the funds for emergency shelter for  
123 those who are not eligible under other grants. Commissioner Hover stated if its for  
124 sheltering that is great, but then he hoped there would be criteria on how to decide who  
125 gets the help. What is the criteria? Will the criteria to receive the funds be that people be  
126 removed by search and rescue or emergency management? Ms. Shawver explained  
127 some people are figuring it out on their own, but OCCAC is helping them figure out how  
128 to help themselves. Is she comfortable with OCCAC screening process to ensure public  
129 dollars are spent on real need? Ms. Shawver said it isn't always going to be a search and  
130 rescue or emergency management situation.

131  
132 Commissioner Hover was comfortable with how OCCAC is going to do their due diligence  
133 to ensure real needs are addressed with the funds and eligibility barriers are addressed.

134

135 **Motion**

136 Commissioner Hover moved to amend the ARPA Agreement amendment #1 budget to  
137 allow use of the funds \$100,000 for food banks, \$50,000 for storage facility rent and  
138 \$15,000 for emergency shelter for those not eligible for other funds. Motion was  
139 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

140 Commissioner Hover stated this was a formality for the board to hear the details on  
141 record. Commissioner Branch stated OCCAC has non-discretionary funds, but those are  
142 used very carefully.

143  
144 Commissioner Branch discussed an incident with a cougar that the BOCC was made  
145 aware of because the cougar killed a dog, stashed it in a barn and then came back to it  
146 later. He discussed effective results for cougar populations that WDFW shares with  
147 counties. Commissioner Hover thought the local enforcement officer would take these  
148 calls and would take the hounds out.

149  
150 Commissioners continued their discussion on the various committees they serve on to  
151 bring Commissioner Neal up to speed.

152  
153 **Commissioners to set Wednesday's Agenda**  
154 Commissioners did not have meetings to schedule.

155  
156 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings December 27, 2022**  
157 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 27, 2022. Motion was  
158 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

159  
160 **Approve Consent Agenda**  
161 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items, 1-8. Motion was seconded,  
162 all were in favor, motion carried.

- 163                   1. **Contract – JIS LINK – Merfeld Law Office**  
164                   2. **Employment Agreement – Maurice Goodall**  
165                   3. **Employment Agreement – Karen Beatty**  
166                   4. **Employment Agreement – Josh Thomson**  
167                   5. **Agreement – LTAC 23-028 Marketing & Promotion – Merc Playhouse**  
168                   6. **Agreement – LTAC 23-024 Marketing & Promotion – Twisp Works**  
169                   7. **Resolution 1-2023 Road Restriction**  
170                   8. **Resolution 2-2023 Signing Authority Chief Deputy Clerk**

171  
172 **Update – Public Works – Josh Thomson**  
173 Kent Kovalenko provided landfill update. Currently crushing metal and have some permanent  
174 positions getting back filled. FYI got a call from a hauler business who wants to take to Spokane  
175 to burn it because company wants to be zero waste. Mr. Kovalenko explained the process in  
176 taking to Spokane. Governmental agreement with Omak for waste going to our landfill and their  
177 attorney is looking into it. There are many definitions on this but the one people adhere to is you  
178 don't burn or bury the waste, it is being recycled or. The BOCC will need to decide regarding the  
179 interlocal agreement with city of Omak. Commissioner Hover suggested talking with the corporate  
180 people at the company. Commissioner Branch stated if we let this one go through it may affect  
181 future changes. They are part of our plan and where the agreement comes in and he didn't think  
182 they could deviate from that unless both agree. It is set up as a utility.

183  
184 **Motion Authorize Litter Control Vehicle**  
185 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize a budget amendment from the solid waste budget to  
186 augment DOE litter control vehicle grant of \$35,000 and up to \$15,000 of the county funds. Motion  
187 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

188  
189 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

190 *Maintenance Road Conditions*

191 More of the same weather-related issues are expected.

192

193 *WDFW Hunter Mountain/Miller Pit*

194 The remaining was offered by WDFW at \$1000 per acre, and adjacent property sold for double,  
195 so Engineer Thomson isn't impressed with the offer.

196 Can we as a public agency explore the conservation route because we don't want to see  
197 residential next to our pit. Commissioner Branch asked that conservation be looked into. Engineer  
198 Thomson said he will.

199

200 Commissioner Hover would like the assessor to evaluate the property. Commissioner Branch is  
201 interested in what the Assessor says about putting the property into conservation. Another  
202 governmental entity might be interested in it. Commissioner Hover suggested contacting the Mule  
203 Deer Foundation about this too.

204

205 Commissioner Branch authorized the Vice Chairman to sign the items for him that only have the  
206 chairman's signature line.

207

208 Commissioner Hover moved to approve and authorize the Vice Chairman to sign the JIS Link of  
209 Feeney PLC. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

210

211 Commissioner Neal explained his wish to address the Oroville Rural EMS to expand it. He said  
212 the City has funds from levy to consider a different arrangement.

213

214 Oroville Senior Center is having a hard time staying afloat and he thought county ARPA funds to  
215 help. Commissioner Branch suggested the info be forwarded to the Aging and Adult care to find  
216 out how they can help.

217

218 Commissioner Hover thought Life Line should be invited to discuss a different arrangement.  
219 Commissioners asked the Clerk of the board to invite Wayne Walker to discuss.

220

221

222 The board adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

223